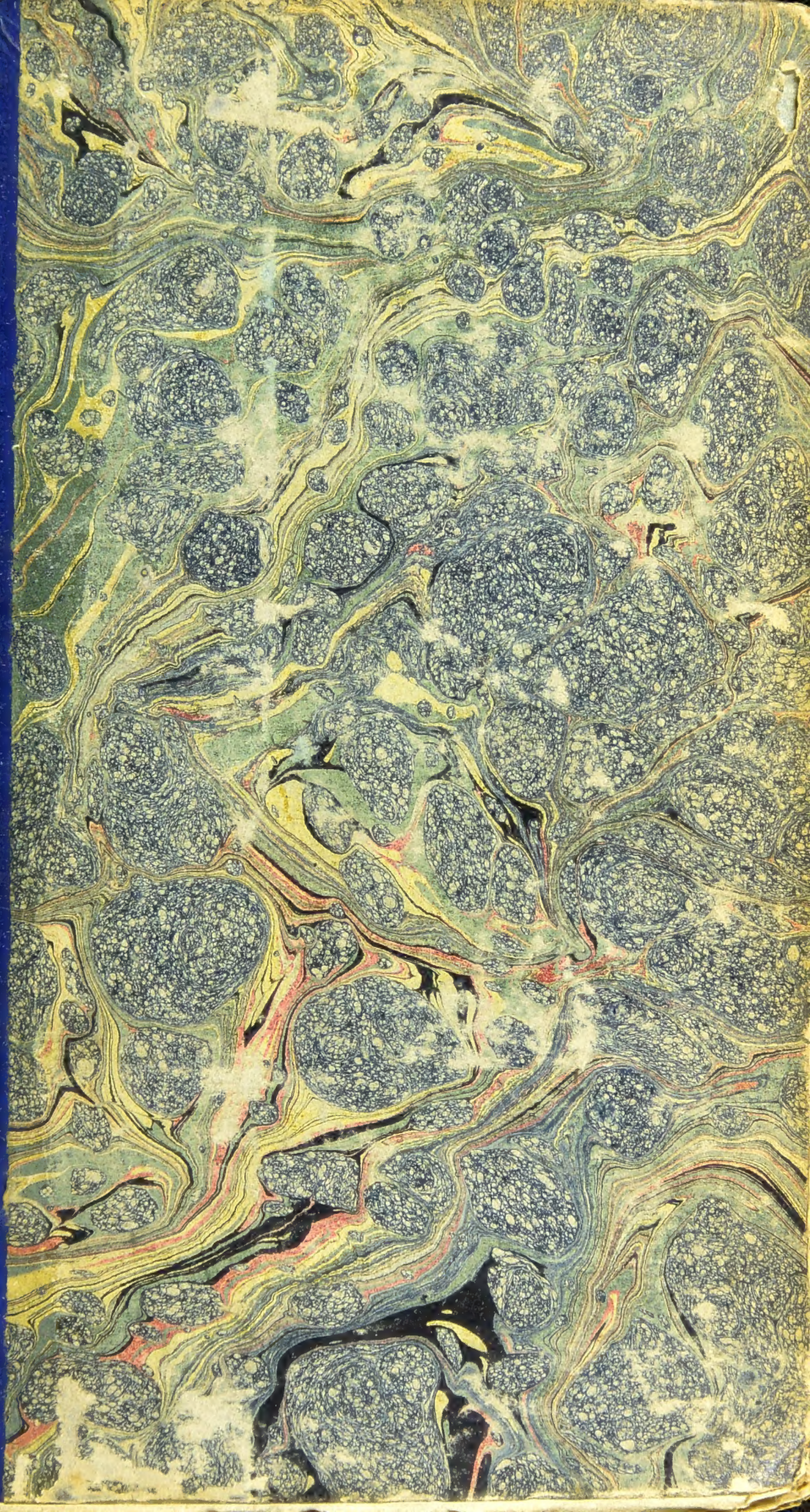

Lent to Prof. Greenwood.
School of Hygiene.

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THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

THE

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DRAWN UP FROM THE CO

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By Sir JOHN SINCL

VOLUME SIX

"Ad consilium de republica dandam, ca

EDINBURG

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AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, A. GU

JO. AND JA. FAIRBAIRN, EDINBURGH;

DALE, J. DEBRETT, AND J. SE

DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLA

ANGUS AND SON, ABE

M,DCC,XCIII.

THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS

OF THE

MINISTERS

OF THE

DIFFERENT PARISHES.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME SIXTH.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
CICERO de Orat. lib. ii.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;
AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, A. GUTHRIE, W. LAING, AND
JO. AND JA. FAIRBAIRN, EDINBURGH; T. CADELL, J. STOCKDALE, J. DEBRETT, AND J. SEWEL, LONDON;
DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLASGOW; AND
ANGUS AND SON, ABERDEEN.

M,DCC,XCIII.

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22.	Kinross - -	1310	1839	529	—	164
23.	Ardchattan and Muckairn	2195	2400	205	—	174
	Carried over	29120	31708	4481	1893	

Brought

* Vide Appendix, N° II, page 628.

N°	Name.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1791-2.	Increase	Decr.	Page.
	Brought over	29120	31708	4481	1893	
24.	Kilmuir Easter -	1095	1975	880	—	183
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30.	North Knapdale -	1369	1009	—	360	255
31.	Kilchrenan and Dalavich	1030	1124	94	—	266
32.	Crawford-John -	765	590	—	175	274
33.	Edderachylis -	869	1024	155	—	278
34.	Wiftoun and Robert-toun	1102	740	—	362	306
35.	Loth - -	1193	1370	177	—	311
36.	Swinton and Simprin	494	898	404	—	322
37.	Nenthorn -	497	400	—	97	336
38.	Auchtermuchty -	1308	1439	131	—	338
39.	Ordiquhill -	666	517	—	149	348
40.	Little Dunkeld	2919	2705	—	214	354
41.	Lumphanan -	682	621	—	61	382
42.	Glenifla -	1852	1018	—	834	390
43.	Alyth - -	2680	2723	43	—	397
44.	Old Cumnock -	1336	1632	296	—	407
45.	Tarbat -	1584	1370	—	214	417
46.	Cranfhaws -	214	164	—	50	436
47.	Sanquhar -	1998	2600	602	—	443
48.	Cumbernauld -	2303	1600	—	703	462
49.	New-Machar -	1191	1030	—	161	465
50.	Kincardine -	1250	2068	818	—	477
51.	Liberton -	2793	3457	664	—	506
52.	Forfar -	2450	4756	2306	—	510
53.	Haddington -	3975	3915	—	60	535
54.	Uphall -	690	600	—	90	543
	Carried over	71352	77128	11614	5838	

Brought

* The miniſters of theſe pariſhes not having given any account of the population of one diſtrict in each, an addition is therefore made to the numbers returned by them.

N°	Name.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1791-2	Increase	Decr.	Page.
	Brought over	71352	77128	11614	5838	
55.	Aberlady -	739	800	61	—	546
56.	Lamingtoun -	599	417	—	182	549
57.	EDINBURGH - (9 Parishes) - Canongate - St. Cuthberts - South Leith - North Leith -	57195	84886	27691	—	559
	Total	129885	163231	39366	6020	
			129885	6020		
	Increase		33346	33346		

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PART O

NUMBER

PARISH OF TRASE

(CONTAINING THE TOWN, CHURCH
MINISTER.)

By the Rev. Mr. Alexan

Kirkcudbright, January 1

THE antient name was Ellisland, a
nology hath escaped conjecture
the middle of the 16th century, b
the estate of Sir Alexander Lindsay
the name of the farmstead, was called
became a place of considerable trade
present determination of the whole parish
ness, is about 55 miles from Edinburgh
tance between the [illegible] and
[illegible] Sir Alexander Lindsay the
[illegible]

N. B.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART VI.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF FRASERBURGH.

(PRESBYTERY OF DEER, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER SIMPSON.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE antient name was Philorth, concerning whose etymology little except conjecture can be advanced. In the middle of the 16th century, a town was erected upon the estate of Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, which, from the name of the superior, was called Fraserburgh; and soon became a place of considerable trade.——From it arose the present denomination of the whole parish; which, at an average, is about 3½ miles in breadth from east to west. The distance between the northern and southern extremities, is about 8 miles; but the parish of Rathen intersects, and divides it into two nearly equal parts, each about 3 miles long.

 The

The meaſurement exceeds 10,000 acres.——Along the ſhore, to the extent of a mile into the country, the ſoil is generally good, partly clay, partly loam, or mixed. In many other places, are rich and fertile fields of a ſimilar ſoil. The reſt of the pariſh is more gravelly: The arable land, eſpecially in the upper diviſion, is intermixed with moſſes and muirs, covered with heath or coarſe graſs.

Sea Coaſt, Rivers, Fiſheries.—The ſea coaſt extends about 4 miles; nearly two of which, to the ſouth of the town, are low and ſandy, bounded by hillocks overgrown with bent. The reſt is rocky and flat; except Kinnaird's-head, a high land projecting into the ſea, thought to be the *Promontorium Taixalium* of Ptolomy, being the turning point into the *Æſtuarium Vararis*, or Murray Firth.—From it the land tends due weſt on the one hand, and makes a curve to the ſouth-eaſt on the other, forming a part of the bay of Fraſerburgh.—On this coaſt, conſiderable quantities of ſea-weed, cut off the rocks, are manufactured into kelp. The ſea has receded from the land in ſome places, and encroached on it in others. —Weſtward of Kinnaird's-head, is a ſtony beach, evidently thrown up by the ſea, 30 ells from, and 3 ells above, the preſent high water mark. Many of the benty hillocks, which ſkirt the bay, ſtand upon moſs or clay; and in 1760, a tree with roots and branches, and a ſtem 20 feet long, was found entire, under the ſand within the high flood mark. By a ſtrong ſouth eaſt wind, the ſands on this ſhore, if dry, are drifted; and if not intercepted by the bents, would overſpread the adjacent fields. Bent ought, therefore, carefully to be preſerved; eſpecially a very fine ſort, which has lately appeared in this bay, reſembling the river bulruſh in length of joint, thickneſs of reed, and largeneſs of leaf and top. It increaſes in quantity, and grows down to high water mark.

——Cod,

——Cod, ling, ſkate, turbot, whitings, haddocks, mackarel, lobſters, and many other kinds of fiſh, all of the beſt quality, and often in great quantities, are caught here in their ſeaſons. A great part of the cod and lobſters is bought up for the London market.——The Dutch are in the practice of fiſhing in ſummer on this coaſt; and in 1786, came ſo near as to preclude the inhabitants from their uſual ſtations. This practice has been long followed by them: and there is a tradition that, in the beginning of the laſt century, their buſſes frequented the loch of Strathbeg, about half way between Fraſerburgh and Peterhead. Strathbeg at preſent, has no navigable communication with the ſea, there being a bar of ſand and bent, nearly a mile in breadth, between them; and an Engliſh gentleman is now attempting to drain that loch.—A rivulet, called the water of Philorth, ſeparating the pariſhes of Fraſerburgh and Rathen, abounds with trout, eſpecially that ſpecies called the phinnick, of a fine flavour. A ſalmon fiſhing has alſo been attempted at its mouth, and along the bay, but has for ſome time been given up.

Climate, Woods, Hills, &c.—The climate is dry; and ſo healthy, that more than 20 perſons are now living, above 80 years of age, and ſome above 90. Continued great froſts are rare. Snow ſeldom falls before Chriſtmas, and does not lie long on the ground.——This pariſh appears to have abounded with wood. Large roots of trees, moſtly oak, remain ſtill in the moſſes. About Philorth houſe, the ſeat of Lord Saltoun, is ſome old timber; and ſeveral plantations have been lately made there. His Lordſhip and other neighbouring gentlemen, have alſo planted ſome hundreds of acres of heath, or land, which produced poor crops of grain, with various kinds of trees, which promiſe to be of great benefit, as well as highly ornamental, to the country.——The on-

ly hill in the vicinity of Fraſerburgh, is Mormond, covered with moſs and heath, elevated 810 feet above the level of the ſea; and the more conſpicuous, as the country on every ſide for many miles is low and champaign. Here, as at the Wrekin of Shropſhire, "all friends around," is no unuſual toaſt.——In different places, are fine mineral ſprings. An excellent one, of a chalybeate nature, reſembling the waters of Peterhead, but reckoned by judges more fit for weak conſtitutions, was diſcovered, a few years ago, on the ſouth eaſt corner of the town. A well of freeſtone has been built, and a neat houſe erected over it, for the accommodation of thoſe that chuſe to drink the water.——A lime-ſtone quarry among the rocks at Broadſea, was formerly wrought, and not being exhauſted, may be opened again. The vein of lime-ſtone runs ſouth; and, in the ſame direction, there are quarries for many miles, at ſhort diſtances from each other; one, of an excellent quality, is on the banks of the water of Philorth. Plenty of granite is found in the upper diviſion. Ironſtone, of a good quality, abounds among the rocks; but the ſcarcity of fuel prevents its being wrought.——Very particular attention has been paid, of late years, to the roads in part of this diſtrict. They are made, and kept in repair by the ſtatute labour, which the people perform perſonally, or by commutation. But a more proper and efficient plan, it is thought, might be adopted. Were turnpikes eſtabliſhed, the roads would be in a better ſtate. Many wiſh for this alteration; while others imagine that ſuch a plan is ſcarcely practicable in the preſent ſtate of the country *.

Proprietors,

* It is contended for, by ſome reſpectable proprietors in this part of Scotland, that there is an abſolute neceſſity either to eſtabliſh turnpikes, or to make an alteration in the nature of the ſtatute labour.—They propoſe in each pariſh a commutation into money, ſomewhat nearer to the *preſent va-*

lue

Proprietors, Rental, and Agriculture.——There are four heritors, one of whom reſides, in the pariſh, beſides many feuars in the town of Fraſerburgh. The valued rent is L. 3000 Scotch. It is difficult to aſcertain the real rent, great part being paid in meal and bear, which vary in price; and ſome ſervices are performed, though this cuſtom is wearing out.—The farms are very different in ſize, from the rent of L. 5 to upwards of L. 100. In the neighbourhood of Fraſerburgh, land rents ſo high as two guineas per acre.———Agriculture has advanced conſiderably, more particularly within theſe few years; and the face of the pariſh is much improved. Oats, barley, beans, and peaſe, are the moſt common ſpecies of grain. Green crops of potatoes, turnips, and cabbages, are introduced; alſo clover, rye-graſs, and fallow. A little wheat and flax is raiſed. All the lands to the weſt and ſouth of Fraſerburgh, to the diſtance of a mile and a half, are incloſed and well cultivated. New incloſures, drains, and other improvements, are making every year. In ſome other parts the land is in the ſame ſtate, and managed in the ſame manner,

lue of labour for the 6 days, which are appointed to be annually wrought upon the roads; and that the whole ſhould be levied in money only, and not, according to the preſent ſtatutes, in perſonal labour at the pleaſure of the individual:—That an aſſeſſment on the valued rent ſhould take place for the ſupport of bridges over the county:—That every one ſhould contribute in proportion to the uſe he made of the roads;—and that none ſhould be exempted from the amount of the ſix days commutation, (ſay 8d. 10d. or 1s. ſterling, per day), whether landholder, commiſſioner, &c.—That the horſes, carriages, carts, &c. of the proprietors, farmers, &c. ſhould pay a certain ſum yearly;—and that the fund be managed as at preſent, by the commiſſioners within each diſtrict, and ſhall be laid out in the different pariſhes, according to the ſum they pay reſpectively. This plan contains hints well entitled to the conſideration of landholders, in the northern, and, perhaps, even in the ſouthern parts of Scotland.

manner, and tolerably weighty crops are raiſed.——The pariſh not only ſupplies itſelf with proviſions, but annually exports a large quantity of barley, oats, meal, beans, and potatoes, of the beſt kind.

The improvements are, in a great meaſure, to be aſcribed to the heritors, who, deſirous of promoting the intereſt and happineſs of their tenants, have bound the latter to incloſe their farms, and to build good houſes; and, for their encouragement, have either given immediate pecuniary aſſiſtance, and deductions of rent for a limited time, or engaged for certain allowances at the expiration of their leaſes. But though conſiderable improvements have been made, much remains to be effected. The diſtinction of infield and outfield has not ceaſed, and of conſequence, an equally regular rotation of cropping ground has not taken place; nor are the habitations of all the farmers well conſtructed and convenient. It cannot be expected that people ſhould depart, all at once, from eſtabliſhed cuſtoms. The beſt concerted plans are effected only by degrees; but the ſpirit of induſtry, which has begun to operate, if duly cheriſhed, will expand itſelf. The advantages, viſibly ariſing from well cultivated lands, will at length overcome former prejudices, eſpecially when the means of improvement are at hand. An inexhauſtible ſhore of very fine ſhell-ſand and ſea-ware, are on one ſide of the pariſh, and lime is on the other: All theſe are much uſed in manuring the ground, and found very profitable in raiſing crops.——Many cattle are reared in the pariſh, and ſome fattened and ſold at good prices. A few hogs alſo are reared. The number of horſes is diminiſhed, but their ſize is encreaſed, ſeveral farmers now uſing only two in a plough inſtead of ſix or eight, as was cuſtomary; and oxen are again, of late, more generally employed in doing the work on the farm. A few years ago, there was ſcarcely a farmer who had not a flock of ſheep;

but

but now only three or four have any at all. This is principally owing to the introduction of turnips, ſown graſs, and planting, and the want of winter herding.——The farms are moſtly laboured by ſervants engaged for the half year. Day-labourers would be more for the advantage of farmers, could they be readily got, when wanted. The wages of men ſervants per year, beſides victuals, are from L. 4 : 10s. to L. 6 ſterling; of women, from L. 2 to L. 2 : 10s. Of men, for ſhearing in harveſt, from L. 1 to L. 1 : 10s. of women, for ditto, from 15s. to L. 1. Of men ſhearing per day, 8d. of women, ditto, 6d. Day-labourers, without victuals, 9d.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Poor, School.—There are two clergymen, the miniſter of the eſtabliſhed church, and that of the Scotch Epiſcopal church. The ſtipend is two chalders of bear, and L. 61 : 2 : 2⅔ in money, including 100 merks for communion elements. The glebe conſiſts of 4½ acres; beſides which, there is an allowance of L. 1 : 14 : 0⅓ for graſs. Lord Saltoun is patron. The manſe was built in 1758, and was repaired lately. The church was erected about 1575. It is in the form of a croſs. Thoſe of the Epiſcopal perſuaſion have lately built a very neat chapel. Their congregation is made up from this and ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes.

The number of poor perſons receiving charity, is about 86. The amount of the collections and funds for their ſupport, is at an average, annually about L. 50. The year 1782 added ſeveral to the liſt, whilſt it diminiſhed the public funds. The failure of the crop, that year, was ſeverely felt in this pariſh; but the effects of it would have been more heavy, had not the heritors, and gentlemen of the town and vicinity, contributed largely, along with the church ſeſſion, for the relief of the neceſſitous, and likewiſe imported flour and grain, which they ſold out, often under prime coſt. It is pleaſing

to observe that the people have almost entirely recovered the effects of that baneful season.

In 1735, Dowager Lady Saltoun mortified 1000 merks for the benefit of three old persons. The interest is applied according to the will of the noble donor.

A few years ago, an excellent school-house was built, with lodgings fit for accommodating the school-master and several boarders. On the front of the house is placed a good carving of Moses and the ten commandments, on free-stone, found in the college of Fraserburgh, and said to have been intended for the altar-piece of its chapel. The school-master's salary, and other emoluments, including those of the session clerkship, may amount to L. 30. There are from 40 to 50 scholars, who are taught English, Latin, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and navigation.

Fuel and Manufactures.——One great disadvantage, under which this parish labours, is the want of fuel. A leat of peats, measuring 24 feet in length, 12 in breadth at bottom, and three at top, and twelve feet in height, will cost the consumer in town upwards of L. 5. Coals are proportionably dear *.

The

* This is in a great degree owing to the coast tax. Were that tax diminished, or commuted, or altogether taken off, it would be a great relief to the people. The extension of manufactures would be much encouraged. The farmers, instead of spending the summer, as at present, in preparing and bringing home peats, would have leisure to attend to manure for their land; and the almost exhausted mosses in the low country would be easily turned into grass or arable land.——Were the practice introduced of preparing peats in these mosses, by persons who could make it their employment, and who would bring them down to farmers, and to the inhabitants of towns and villages, for sale, the great inconveniencies of the scarcity of fuel, or the loss of time to the industrious on the coast, would in some measure be avoided;

The only manufacture is linen yarn. Dutch flax, to the value of from L. 1500 to L. 2000, is annually imported for that purpoſe. The greateſt part of the yarn is exported to other places, and wrought up there, which is a ſtrong proof of the cheapneſs of labour; a circumſtance which affords the beſt grounds to hope, that whatever new manufactures may be introduced here, will have a very fair chance of ſucceeding.

Population.——Population has been increaſing ſenſibly for more than ten years paſt. In 1780, there were about 2000 ſouls in the pariſh; at preſent the number amounts to about 2200. Of which, about 1000 reſide in the town, 200 in the fiſhing village of Broadſea, and the reſt in the country part of the pariſh. The return to Dr. Webſter, in 1755, was 1682; conſequently there has been an increaſe ſince that period of 518 ſouls. Since 1784, at an average, the baptiſms have annually been 37, the marriages 14, and the deaths 19 *.

voided; and the proprietors of theſe moſſes would thereby acquire a market for an article, at preſent of little value, and even cumberſome to their properties. This is alſo probably the caſe in other parts of Scotland.

* *Antiquities.*——In the pariſh are the ruins of two chapels; one, probably, a ſeminary of learning of conſiderable repute, as it is called the college; at which ſome monks, belonging to the abbey of Deer, reſided. Near this is a well, where the ſuperſtitious practice of leaving ſome trifle, after drinking of its waters, ſtill exiſts.——In the weſt end of the town of Fraſerburgh is an old quadrangular tower of three ſtories, a ſmall part of a large building, intended for a college, by Sir Alexander Fraſer, who, in 1592, obtained a charter from the crown, in which, powers were given to erect and endow a college and univerſity, to appoint a rector, a principal, a ſubprincipal, and all the profeſſors for teaching the different ſciences they ſhould think proper and neceſſary; to make laws for the preſervation of good order, and to enforce them. Every immunity and privilege of an univerſity is granted, as the charter runs,

" *In*

Town of Fraserburgh.——This town, situated on the south side of the point of Kinnaird's head, is nearly of a square figure, most of the streets crossing each other at right angles. The houses are neatly built, and covered with slates or tyles. Many new houses have been erected within these few years, and several of them finished in an elegant manner. There are about 100 tenements, each of which contains 22 falls; the original price of each lot was L. 16 : 13 : 4 sterling, or L.1666 : 13 : 4 in whole, besides an annual feu-duty of 4s. 5$\frac{1}{5}$d. each. The old public buildings and works, viz. the tolbooth and town-house, the cross, and the harbour, were erected by Sir Alexander Fraser, the superior, and disponed to the feuars by the charter of erection; which is dated in October 1613. The cross is reckoned a fine structure. It is a hexagon, with three equidistant angular abutments; the area of the base is 500 feet; by 9 intrenchings the top is contracted to 23 feet, on the middle of which is raised a stone pillar 12 feet high. The British arms, surmounting the armorial coat of Fraser of Philorth, adorn the summit. Under the cross is a jail.——

The

"*In amplissima forma, et modo debito, in omnibus respectibus, ut conceditur et datur* "*cuicunque collegio et universitati intra regnum nostrum erecto seu erigendo.*" In 1597, the general assembly recommended Mr Charles Farme, minister here, to be principal; but it appears nothing further was done.——On the point of Kinnaird's-head, stands another old tower, called the *Wine Tower*, similar in form, built on a rock over-hanging the sea. There is no communication between the lowest and the second storey; an outer door opens into the third, from which there is a passage, through the floor, down to the second; no vestige of a stair, within or without, is visible. Under this tower is a cave, penetrating into the rock more than 100 feet.——In this parish are some ruins of Danish, or Pictish houses, as they are called, by the country people. These are about 10 feet square, with a door, and hearthstone evidently marked with fire; and, though insignificant in themselves, serve to demonstrate that the inabitants of Buchan were, at one time, of Scandinavian origin.

The harbour is ſmall, but good. According to the tide, there are from 11 to 16 feet water within the harbour, and above 20 feet immediately without, at ſpring tides. Veſſels of 200 tons burden enter at preſent. Contiguous to the harbour, is a tolerable road for ſhipping, in a bay nearly a league in length, and half a league broad, with good anchoring ground. Seven veſſels, from 50 to 100 tons, employed both in the coaſting trade and in the foreign, belong to this place. Ship-building has been attempted here, and has ſucceeded well, eſpecially ſince the peace of 1783.

Fraſerburgh is well ſituated for trade. In the beginning of this century, its commerce was equal, if not ſuperior to that of any other town on the coaſt, between Aberdeen and Inverneſs. At preſent it requires only encouragement to render it again a port of ſome conſequence. Were the harbour enlarged, and the piers extended a few yards forward to the rock called the *Ellie*, there would be an increaſe of five feet water in it; there would thereby, alſo, be ſecured about 8 feet water at low tide, within the pier-heads. This improvement would probably be expenſive: but wind-bound veſſels, and others, of conſiderable burden, would thereby find eaſy acceſs, and be ſheltered in ſtormy weather when they could not reach any harbour in the Murray Firth. Having two channels of entrance, one of them, from their ſituation, could always be taken.——Another uſeful improvement upon its preſent ſtate, of ſmall expence, and in ſome degree connected with former, would be to erect a breaker on the rock called the *Inch*, which lies a little way without the harbour. It is obſerved that, in whatever weather, there is no run within the harbour until this rock is covered by the flowing tide: Therefore, were this breaker to be raiſed as high as the tide flows, it is ſuppoſed that all run into the harbour would thereby be prevented. It does not appear that the expence of this breaker

would exceed L. 300.——Fishing banks, for cod, commence right off Kinnaird's-head, about 10 leagues out at sea; and the herring shoals pass every year close under the coast. Fraserburgh, therefore, would be an excellent station for vessels and men employed in these fisheries. The country adjacent is populous, and provisions are plentiful.——It has been long in agitation to amend and enlarge this harbour, but the want of money has hitherto prevented it. The town's people would chearfully contribute such a proportion as they can afford, if they had hopes of obtaining assistance from Government, the royal burghs, or elsewhere.

Fraserburgh is a burgh of regality. The government of it is vested in Lord Saltoun, (the superior), two baillies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and a council. His Lordship has the right and authority of provost, with powers to nominate and appoint yearly the new magistrates and council, by the advice and consent of the old. By the charter of erection, the feuars are constituted burgesses of the burgh, and incorporated brethren of the guild thereof. Those admitted to its liberties may exercise all kinds of trade and merchandize: Such as are not freemen may be debarred from a participation of that privilege. A power, however, which is not enforced.——The feuars are obliged to uphold the public works of the town. But for doing this, the customs of the markets, and the harbour dues, were granted to them. These may amount annually to L. 60, and are under the management of the superior and council.——By a late transaction between Lord Saltoun and the town, the feuars, in lieu of some privileges and claims over commonable lands, which they gave up, obtained, in property, lands which rent at L. 23. Of this the feuars, at large, have the sole disposal. And they have it now under consideration, with this fund, to bring water in pipes, into the town, for the use of the inhabitants.

Almost

Almoſt adjoining to the weſt end of Fraſerburgh, is the fiſhing village of Broadſea. Seven boats belong to it. Theſe boats are let to a tackſman. The fiſhermen inhabit good houſes covered with tyles: to build which, they receive an allowance from the proprietor. They are tenants at will, paying annually a ſmall quit rent.

A few yards weſt of the *Wine Tower*, (mentioned in the note, page 10), ſtands the caſtle of Kinnaird's head, built about the year 1600, in the form of a parallelogram, 39 feet by 27, ſtill entire, ſtrong, and lately repaired. Being on an eminence, and four ſtories high, it commands an extenſive proſpect. On the top of this caſtle, Government, a few years ago, erected a light-houſe, containing 20 lamps with reflectors; which, it is believed, will tend materially to the preſervation of the ſhipping engaged in commerce upon this coaſt, Kinnaird's-head being generally the firſt land made by ſhips coming from the north ſea to the eaſt coaſt of Scotland, and from the eaſt ſea to the Murray Firth, and to the weſt of Scotland and Ireland by the Orkneys. It is alſo taken as a point of departure; and the light is ſeen a great way off from the weſt, north, and eaſt, by which veſſels are enabled to haul their wind in time, to avoid the danger of a lee ſhore.

The inconvenience of being obliged to ſend to Aberdeen, at the diſtance of 44 miles, moſtly by expreſſes, for all cuſtom-houſe diſpatches, is ſeverely felt by the trading part of the community *. Another great inconvenience is felt, from their being

* It will not, it is hoped, be deemed improper to ſuggeſt, before quitting this ſubject, the propriety of introducing into burghs of regality, or of barony, advantages ſimiliar to thoſe enjoyed by the inhabitants of burghs royal, in the cheapneſs attending their ſeiſins on property within burgh, and moderate fees on recording theſe deeds by the town clerks. Nor is the practice within royal burghs, with reſpect to the ſpeedy diſpoſal of fallen or ruinous feus,

being no post going directly from the town to Peterhead and Banff; the letters, for both these places, going round by Aberdeen.

fues, by statute 1663. c. 16. less requisite to be extended to those towns and villages; since nothing can prove a greater bar to strangers from settling in them than the disgusting appearance they exhibit. These seisins might be recordable, at a small expence, in the sheriff clerk's office of the county, and the infeftments taken by the town clerks of the burgh of barony: An action might also be maintained in the sheriff court, in name of the community, for the sale of fallen and ruinous feus. At present these actions must be had by declarator of non-entry, at the instance of the superior, before the court of Session: A mode too expensive for the value of these properties in general.— It may farther be observed, that a more extensive scale of police, than at present exists, is requisite in villages and towns which are not burghs royal.

NUMBER

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF RATHEN.

(PRESBYTERY OF DEER, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM CUMINE.

Name, Situation, &c.

ACCORDING to a current tradition, Rathen is derived from Ethernan, the name of an old ſaint, who is ſaid to have reſided in the pariſh.——It is three miles diſtant from Fraſerburgh, extending upwards of two miles along the ſea-coaſt betwixt that town and Peterhead; from thence it runs inland, in a ſouth-weſt direction, to the extent of 7 miles: The breadth is two miles at an average. About a third part of Mormond-hill, (mentioned in the preceding account of Fraſerburgh), is comprehended in the pariſh; this hill, its environs, and ſeveral patches of moſs, are good for little except affording fuel. The ſoil, through the reſt of the pariſh, is very various: There are ſome deep rich fields; others are light, and ſandy but generally productive under good treatment; and others gravelly and ſtony, ſeveral parcels of which never have been broken up. The water of Rathen, or Philorth, dividing this pariſh from Fraſerburgh, drives ſeveral mills; and

and has several fields of good meadow on its banks. About the half of the sea shore in the parish is plain and sandy, the rest rocky, but low. Green links, and some patches of bent, lie immediately above the whole course of this coast; which affords some kelp, and abundance of shell-sand and sea-ware, for manure. On it stand two fishing villages, employing 6 or 7 boats each. The fish caught here are the same species mentioned in the account of Fraserburgh, and disposed of in the same manner.——The air is sharp, though the people in general cannot be said to be unhealthy. Putrid and nervous fevers have of late cut off several persons, mostly of middle age. Formerly inflammatory fevers prevailed more. Not 50 years age, the rheumatism was little known; now, there are few grown persons altogether free from it. Some of the people are reconciled to the practice of inoculation; so the small-pox does not make so much havock as usual, except among the fishers, who will not adopt that preventive mode.

Rent, Cultivation, &c.—The parish belongs to ten different proprietors, whereof two are resident. The valued rent is L. 3520 Scotch; the real about L. 2000 sterling, paid part in money and part in victual, with some customs, bondages, and personal services, though the three last are gradually lessening here. The inhabitants in general, except the fishermen, and a few old and decayed persons, who reside in solitary cottages, are all, in some degree, farmers. The several tradesmen, and others of different employments, possess each a field, which they generally improve. Upwards of three-fourths of the parish, however, is occupied by real farmers, who of late, having adopted a better mode of culture than what prevailed formerly, have improved their possessions considerably. Yet still much may be done. Near the coast, the

principal part of the crop consists of barley, or, what is called, ware-bear *, pease, and beans. Farther inland, oats and barley, potatoes, turnips, kail, and sown grass, are also raised, more or less on every possession; likewise small parcels of flax on some, but no wheat. The barley raised in this district is of three different qualities; true barley, weighing from 19 to 20 st. the boll; common country bear, or big, weighing from 17 to 18 st. and ware-bear, from 16 to 17 st. all Amsterdam weight, and Aberdeen measure. The oats raised here are good, especially on the coast, weighing, on well managed farms, 16 st. Some brocked, but little, if any, small oats are now raised. Lime has been used here as manure, during the course of 80 years, though, for a long time, very improperly; its application now being better understood, it is attended with good effects.——There are several veins of limestone in the parish; one is of a superior quality to any in this corner of the country: its produce is carried inland to a considerable distance for the purpose of building. Sea ware, and, of late, shell sand, are used as manure.——Servant's wages are increased to about double what they were 30 years ago, and are every year augmenting; as is the price of labour of every kind. ——The numbers of the cattle maintained in the parish, in 1792, is as follows:

Horses 463. Black cattle 1248. Sheep 602.

Church, Poor, &c.—The parish church is the only place where divine service is publicly performed in the parish. Its fabric, the minister's manse and offices, are all in good repair. The minister's stipend is a chalder of ware-bear; another of

* When bear or big is manured with sea ware, the crop is very abundant, but the grain is very small, and is known by the name of *Ware bear.*

meal; 700 merks Scotch money; 100 merks Scotch, for communion elements; and L.4 st. for firing; the moss, whence the minister used to be supplied with peats, being lately exhausted. Besides the above, the minister possesses about 6 acres of ground, (glebe and grass); which, together with the manse and offices, would set to no great account without privilege to moss. Lord Saltoun is patron. The schoolmaster's salary is very trifling.

The poor of the parish are supplied in their own houses. Very few go a begging, and that only occasionally. The funds under the management of the church session, arising from some mortified money lent out, the weekly collections in the church, and some other small emoluments accruing to the session, afford them about L. 30 sterling yearly. There are usually from 30 to 40 on the roll, besides some necessitous persons that occasionally need supply. The inhabitants in general are charitable; and the poor are often privately assisted by their neighbours, especially by the families of distinction, whose benevolence, indeed, is not confined to their own neighbourhood. The parish could, with ease, support its own poor, but is harrassed with vagrants. The failure of crop 1782 was very distressing; and the succeeding one afforded little relief; the poor people's money being then gone: Had not crop 1784 proved uncommonly productive, great numbers would have been ruined.

Population.——During the last 20 years, the inhabitants have increased considerably. It is said, by scarcity, owing to unfavourable seasons, during the 7 last years of the preceding century, called here, the *ill years*, they were greatly diminished. In 1755, the number was 1527. The present numbers of all ages and religious professions, are,

Inhabitants

Inhabitants	1730	Bereans	9
Families	401	Seceders	2
Males	861	Roman Catholic	1
Females	869	Resident in the two fishing villages	401
Under 10	371	The oldest person in the parish is	92
From 10 to 20	378	Average of baptisms in the register	35
—— 20 to 50	640	—— of marriages	12
—— 50 to 70	241	—— of burials	31
Above 70	100		
Presbyterians	1487		
Episcopalians	231		

Miscellaneous Observations *.—The people of this parish are general sober and industrious, and live comfortably, at least such as are well disposed and attentive. By a better mode of farming, and greater diligence than formerly prevailed here,

C 2 they

* *Antiquities.*—There are few remains of antiquity in this parish. The most remarkable are three old cairns which were very large, till of late that great quantities of the stones have been taken away from two of them. They stand near one another upon an extensive plain; and are thought to be monuments of the burials of some eminent men. The remains of human bones were lately found in one of them. The tradition, which is all that can be learned of them here, is, that the Danes landed on the east coast, at a place called Cruden, about six miles southward from Peterhead; that the inhabitants attacked and drove them from their ships; whereupon, flying towards Moray, where a colony of their countrymen were established, the Scots came up with, fought and beat them on the plain where the cairns stand; and that they contain the graves of some chiefs that fell there.

There are two old castles in the parish both in ruins, Cairnbuilg and Inverallochie, which seem to be places of considerable strength, especially Cairnbuilg; the walls of which are almost entire, and of prodigious thickness. It was the family seat of Lord Saltoun's predecessors; and called Philorth, till sold by Sir Alexander Fraser, An. 1613, to Fraser of Durris, when its name was changed to Cairnbuilg:

they have in general increaſed their little ſtocks: Yet unhappily, too many by a more expenſive mode of living and dreſs, lately introduced, have hurt themſelves very much. Even ſervants, both male and female, though their wages are almoſt the double of what they were ſome time ago, expend ſo much on dreſs, that they are in general poor. No natural wood grows here; but the moſſes abound with oaks of a large ſize; ſome in ſuch a ſtate of preſervation as to be fit for many uſeful purpoſes. Some ſmall plantations of wood have been made here ſince the commencement of this century; and in theſe the aſh, in particular, is of an excellent quality.——A very extraordinary land flood happened on the 18th of July, 1789; ſuppoſed to have been occaſioned by a water ſpout breaking upon Mormond-hill, and ſwelling the water of Rathen to a pitch that was not remembered by the oldeſt perſon in the pariſh. Several bridges were broken down; and ſundry patches of meadow buried deep under ſtones and gravel.

NUMBER

builg: And Sir Alexander then transferred its former name to another houſe that belonged to him, about a mile to the weſtward, which it ſtill retains; and has been the ſeat of the Saltoun family ever ſince.

Inverallochie appears to be inferior in ſtrength to Cairnbuilg. No date is ſeen about either of them. Till of late a ſtone above the entry to Inverallochie bore, with the Cumine's arms, the following inſcription: "I Jordan "Cuming gat this houſe and land for bigging the abbey of Deer."

There are alſo two mounds, or hillocks of earth, near the church, and not a mile aſunder, that ſeem to have been formed by the hands of men. They are nearly circular, and ſlope towards the top, forming there an horizontal plain, ſomewhat circular alſo, of about thirty yards diameter. Both are pretty ſteep all around; except that acceſs to the top is tolerably eaſy on one quarter of each, by means of the riſing ground adjoining. The one is called Trefor hill, and the other St Oyne's. Some think they have been old encampments.

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF CAERLAVEROCK.

(PRESBYTERY, COUNTY, AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM M'MORINE.

Name, Situation, &c.

ACCORDING to Baxter *, Caerlaverock ſignifies the caſtle cloſe upon the ſea. The pariſh is a kind of peninſula, formed by the Solway Firth, the river Nith, and Locharwater; reſembling a *cornucopia*, (a juſt emblem of its fertility); having its mouth towards Dumfries, into which it pours a conſiderable part of its produce; and the convex ſide towards Nith and Solway. The middle and upper end of the pariſh is high, with gently riſing hills, and compact; it bends, and is lengthened to a point, eaſtward, and this part is low and level. The higher ground is generally a light, dry, and tolerably fertile loam; interſperſed, however, with many acres of wet, ſhallow, ſtony, mooriſh ſoil, (producing nothing but heath and ruſhes), lying for the moſt part in the vallies; which,

* Gloſſary of Britiſh antiquities, under the word *Uxela*. Mr Groſe thinks Caerlaverock ſignifies the caſtle of Lewarch Og, who was the ſon of Lewarch Hen, a celebrated Britiſh poet, and founder of the caſtle.

which, even after it has been limed and tilled, but ill rewards the labour of the husbandman. The low and level point is of various soils. The whole stands on a red freestone bottom, which, in the higher land, is at no great depth from the surface; and is a soft, easily wrought, though pretty durable, stone, used for building in the vicinity. Some of it has of late been manufactured into flags, and exported to Dublin and Liverpool.——In the Nith, excellent flounders and salmon are caught * by the farmers and cotters; and either consumed in their families, or carried to Dumfries. In the Lochar, are found pikes, roaches, and eels, in abundance, likewise a few trouts: and, near its mouth, salmon and flounders are sometimes, but rarely, caught.——In the parish are two harbours, Keltown and Glencaple. At the former, the tide rises 15 feet; and at the latter, 12 feet, at the full and change of the moon. The vessels belonging to Nith, are from 30 to 80 or 90 tons burden; chiefly employed in bringing lime and coals from Cumberland; and from Liverpool, such grocery goods as are consumed in the neighbourhood; and in exporting potatoes and grain. Of late, rum, fruit, and Port wine, have been imported; and a considerable quantity of timber is annually brought from Memel and Riga: but the vessels employed in these voyages are generally obliged to unload at the Carse, 6 miles below Glencaple Key.

Extent, Proprietors, Rent, &c.—The parish is 6 miles long, and no where more than two miles broad, containing about 4640 Scotch acres; whereof, 59 are wood, about 60 moss, and the rest arable, with the exception of nearly 40 acres of meadow liable to be overflowed by Lochar; and a still greater extent

* The various modes of fishing practised here, are described in the account of the parish of Dornock, vol. 2d.

tent of marſh ground expoſed to the ſame accident from the ſea. The whole pariſh is the property of William Haggerſtone Maxwell Conſtable, Eſq. of Nithſdale, excepting about 600 acres belonging to three different heritors, only one of whom reſides. The old croft land is ſet at one guinea per acre; the other arable land, from 21 s. to about 10 s. the unimproved paſture and moor ground, of which little now remains, from 1s. 6d. to 7s. the marſh and meadow from 10s. to 12s. Leaſes are commonly granted for 19 years, and no more. The real rent of the pariſh is at preſent L. 2151 : 8 : 9. This rent has been doubled ſince 1776, and more than tripled ſince 1756. Such is the rapid progreſs of improvement, that nearly 1s. 5d. per acre, more rent is laid on the land, in thoſe leaſes which are juſt now about to be renewed *. The tenants pay none of the public burdens, except the road money (L. 14 *per annum*), the victual ſtipend, the tithes of fiſh due to the miniſter, and an acknowledgement of 1s. 6d. to the landlord, from every perſon who uſes the haf-net. The valued rent is 2597 merks.

Produce, Cultivation, &c.——The produce may be thus ſtated:

	Acres.	Produce per acre.	Value.	Total produce.	Total value.
Wheat	193	31 Win. b.	5s. 4d.	5983 bſh.	L. 1593 9 4
Barley	200	33 do.	2s. 6d.	6600 bſh.	825 0 0
Oats	773	35 do.	1s 11d.	27055 bſh.	2592 15 0
Potatoes	138	7 tons.	23s. 4d.	966 tons.	1127 0 0
	1414 acres.			Total value	L. 6138 4 4

There

* How far this may be carried, would be hazardous to conjecture; but, in the mean

There are alſo about 30 acres in flax, and 80 in turnips, peaſe, or fallow.

The live ſtock have been numbered and may be valued nearly as follows:

173	Horſes, at L. 14 each -	L. 2422	0	0
784	Cows of one year old and upwards, at L. 4 - - -	3136	0	0
190	Calves of the preſent year, at L. 1 : 10	285	0	0
300	Sheep, at L. 1 - - -	300	0	0
100	Swine, worth when fat, L. 2 : 10	250	0	0
	Total value of live ſtock	L. 6393	0	0

Lime is univerſally uſed as a manure. The firſt time ground is limed, it is uſual to lay on each acre, from 50 to 70 or even, 80 meaſures, more or leſs, in proportion to the heavineſs or lightneſs of the ſoil *. Sleech, or ſea ſand, is uſed as a ſubſtitute for lime, by thoſe neareſt the ſhore.

The

meantime, it gives the friend of the huſbandman pleaſure to obſerve, that hitherto, with the advancement of his rent, the price of the productions of the ſoil, his activity, his intelligence, and his happineſs, ſeem to have advanced.

* Upon land that has never been ploughed before, the lime is not laid until it be firſt broken by the plough and harrows; but, if it has been tilled before, it is thought better to ſpread it on the graſs ſurface; and experience proves, that it is advantageous to allow the lime to lie a year on the ground, before ploughing it down. If it be ploughed down immediately, the farmer reaps no benefit from the lime for the firſt crop.

The following rotation of crops is purſued with little variation. The ground is broken up for oats, two crops of which are taken in ſucceſſion. Then follows a green crop, generally potatoes; ſeldom turnips, peaſe, or naked fallow. After this the ground is ſown with clover and rye-graſs, and is then mown for the firſt year, paſtured for the two, and ſometimes three following years: After which, it is again broken up to undergo the ſame courſe of tillage. Where the ſoil is not fit for wheat or barley, two or three crops of oats are taken after the lime is laid on, and then the ground is laid out for paſture; in which ſtate, it is allowed to lie ſtill, in order to ſubdue the ruſhes, heath, and moſs which ſoon grow up, and the farmer is again called upon to lime and plough it. The farms are generally ſmall, from L. 40 to L. 70 *per annum*, of rent, and ſeveral pay much leſs; two only, pay above L. 100 a year. In the pariſh there are upwards of 90 carts, and about 70 ploughs, both of the Scotch and the Engliſh form; the latter is uſed in the low land, which is entirely free of ſtones, and the former in the dry and ſtony land. The horſes are all of the Scotch breed, and employed in agriculture only. A few young ones are reared annually, either for ſale, or to ſupply the place of thoſe that wear out in the ſervice. The cows are moſtly of the Galloway kind. Few of them, even when well fattened, will weigh more than 40 ſt. The ſheep are of the Engliſh mugg, the Bakewell, the Scotch, or moorland kind. Part of the ſwine are conſumed in the pariſh, and part killed and ſalted for the Engliſh market. A conſiderable number of young cattle reared in the pariſh, are every year ſold in the Dumfries market. All the wheat is carried thither, and part of the barley produced here; part is exported to Whitehaven and Liverpool; to which ports, to Dublin, and ſometimes even to Briſtol, the potatoes, after the very conſiderable conſumption of the pariſh is ſupplied, are alſo ſent.

Population.——According to Dr Webster's report in 1755, the number of inhabitants was - - 784

By a list made up in 1777, there were in the parish 449 males, and 553 females - - Total 902

In 1791, the population was as under:

Total	955	Ship carpenters and sailors	25
Males	454	House do. and wrights	7
Females	501	Masons	3
Unmarried males, who keep house	5	Quarrymen	2
Under 10	230	Smiths	5
Above 90 *	2	Shoe-makers	9
Families of farmers	56	Weavers	20
——— of labourers and tradesmen	166	Taylors	5
Total families	222	Annual average of births in 1740	15
Roman Catholics, individuals	3	Average for some years past	25
Families of dissenters	3	Born in 1790 and 1791	60

The average number in each family is under 4½, owing to the number of poor people who live in houses by themselves. Almost all the inhabitants are employed in agriculture; even a great part of the tradesmen occasionally take up that employment, particularly in harvest time. The labour of cultivation is, however, chiefly performed by the farmers themselves, (who do not disdain to follow the plough), and by their families,

* In the register are entered the names of several who died in the 95th and 96th years of their age; one is said to have reached 100 years.

families, cottagers, and ſervants, though only a few of the laſt claſs are required *.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Poor, &c.——The ſtipend is L. 52 ſterling in money; 236 ſt. of meal; 88 pecks of bear; the tythes of Townhead and Byres, paid in kind, on an average L. 12; the tiend of fiſh, which is 1 s. from every man who uſes the haſ-net, valued at L. 3; a glebe of 21 acres, valued at L. 14; amounting in whole to L. 110 *per annum*. The manſe was built about 1708, by Dr John Hutton, a native of this pariſh, and is yet in decent condition. The Duke of Queenſberry is patron.

In the pariſh are four ſchools, at which no leſs than 150 boys and girls are inſtructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic; and at one of them a few boys are taught Latin and Greek.

In 1708, Dr Hutton, above-mentioned, mortified L. 1000 ſterling; the intereſt of L. 900 of which was deſtined for ſupport of the native poor of the pariſh, payment of ſchoolmaſters, maintaining burſars at the ſchools, and repairing the

* The wages of a man ſervant who is maintained in the family, is from L. 6 to L. 8; thoſe of a woman, about L. 3. The former, while he remains ſingle, if he be frugal, may live decently; but the latter, who receives ſo much leſs for more inceſſant, though ſomewhat eaſier labour, is barely able to ſupport herſelf on her wages. The married day-labourer who receives only 1 s. per day, without victuals, and 8 d. with them, can ſcarcely maintain his generally numerous family. He can earn no more than L. 15 : 15, per ann. even were he not to remain idle one day. Yet ſuch is the happy frugality and induſtry of this claſs in Scotland, that there are many families, conſiſting of a wife and 7 or 8, and even more children, 4 of whom, at leaſt, can do nothing for their own ſubſiſtence, ſupported by the labour of one man: And, what the luxurious will ſcarcely believe, they ſeem to be tolerably well clothed and fed, contented and happy.

church and manse. The interest of the remaining L. 100 was allotted to defray the expence of management; which, by the deed of mortification, is intrusted to the session of the parish, whose accounts are to be annually audited by the presbytery of the bounds.

The whole sum of L. 1000, was soon after it came into the hands of the session, laid out in the purchase of the barony of Barclay, in Colvend, which now yields an annual rent of L. 183. The parish afterwards received L. 310 more in donations from different persons; L. 110 of which was laid out to improve Barclay, and the remaining L. 200 is lent out at L. 5 *per cent* interest; so that the whole annual income of the parish is now L. 193, which is thus expended:

To the grammar school at Bankend -	L. 30	0	0
To the English school at Blackshaw -	15	0	0
To ditto at Highmains -	7	0	0
To ditto at Keltown - -	7	0	0
To the maintainance of six poor boys as bursars, at the school of Bankend, each of whom receive annually L. 3 : 4 : 6 for four years - -	19	7	0
After they leave school, they receive each 7s. 6d. for 4 years more, to assist in the payment of apprentice-fees, if bound to any trade -	2	5	0
Privately distributed in terms of a donation	2	0	0
Publicly distributed at three different terms annually, more or less according to circumstances, but on an average - - - -	80	0	0
Total	L. 161	12	0

The occasional expences for the management of the funds do not amount to more than L. 2 annually; what remains of the

the income, is devoted to the buying of books for the ſchools, and poor ſcholars; building and repairing ſchoolhouſes, church, and manſe; and relieving accidental diſtreſs. The collections, at the church door, amounting to L. 4 *per annum*, are deſtined for the ſupport of thoſe who, not having been born in the pariſh, have no right to participate in the benefit of Dr Hutton's fund*.

Eminent

* If the ſituation, circumſtances, and manners of the inhabitants of Caerlaverock are conſidered, it ſhould ſeem that a fourth part of the ſum, allotted to the ſupport of the poor, might be ſufficient for all the purpoſes of real and uſeful charity. And, indeed, an attentive obſerver will reckon it a matter of doubt, whether the greatneſs of the pariſh funds be productive of moſt good or evil. The moraliſt has ſome cauſe to complain, that it dries up the ſources of private charity, and renders the poorer people leſs willing to aſſiſt their old and needy relations. Theſe, they ſeem ſometimes diſpoſed to abandon to the care of the ſeſſion, who cannot, by the ſmall allowance they beſtow, make up to them the want of that tender aſſiduity, which proves the cordial of age and poverty, and which natural affection alone can adminiſter.

The farmer with ſtill greater reaſon complains, that the idea of a plentiful fund eſtabliſhed for their ſupport, fills the pariſh, in ſpite of every effort to prevent it, with the idle, infirm, and indolent; and renders it difficult for him to obtain day-labourers. In fine, the poor themſelves are far from being contented with their reſpective proportions of the funds, which are, notwithſtanding, diſtributed with great impartiality. They are accuſtomed to lean too much to them, and to depend too little upon their own exertions: Nay, it is ſaid, that a querulous habit is acquired, and even infirmity feigned, in order to excite compaſſion, and to obtain a more liberal ſhare of charity.

In the oppoſite ſcale of good, theſe effects of the funds are to be thrown; Firſt, The ſupport of convenient ſchools; Second, That no diſtreſs ariſing from poverty occurs, which obtains not a prompt relief, without any expence to the inhabitants of the pariſh. But, though none of the poor of Caerlaverock are under the neceſſity of begging from houſe to houſe, the pariſh is as much as any other in this quarter, peſtered with vagrants, and as liberal to them.

From theſe facts and obſervations then, as it has occurred to every man who

turns

Eminent Men.—Dr John Hutton, whoſe benefactions have been juſt now mentioned, was born in this pariſh; and, for ſome time, herded the ſheep of the Epiſcopal miniſter of this charge. From this humble ſtation he was removed to be a companion to a gentleman's ſon, who had taken a fancy to him; and along with this perſon he acquired the rudiments of a liberal education. At Edinburgh he ſtudied phyſic; and, going abroad in purſuit of that ſcience, happened to be in Holland a little before the Revolution. While in that country, it happened that Mary, Princeſs of Orange, being thrown from her horſe at a hunting party, Hutton was the firſt to preſent himſelf, when a ſurgeon was wanted to bleed her. This put him in the road to preferment. He came over at the revolution; was made firſt phyſician to King William and Queen Mary, and phyſician general to their armies and hoſpitals: In which ſtations he acquired an ample fortune, and died in 1712. Beſides theſe benefactions, he bequeathed his library

turns his attention to the ſolution of this important queſtion, "How ought "the poor to be ſupplied," it may be inferred:

That diſtreſs and poverty multiply in proportion to thoſe funds that are created to relieve them. "Where the carcaſe is, there the eagles will be ga-"thered together."

That the meaſures of charity ought to remain inviſible, till the moment when it is neceſſary that they ſhould be diſtributed.

That in the country pariſhes of Scotland, in general, ſmall, occaſional, voluntary, collections are ſufficient.

That the legiſlature has no occaſion to interfere to augment that ſtream which is already copious enough, though not always derived from it's proper ſource, or confined to its proper channel.

In fine, that the eſtabliſhment of a poors-rate would be, not only unneceſſary, but hurtful, as it would tend to oppreſs the landholder without bringing relief to the poor.

library to the presbytery of Dumfries, which town he represented in parliament.

*Miscellaneous Observations**.—The inhabitants of Caerlaverock are in general plain, honest, sober, industrious, and charitable. From their vicinity to Dumfries and the shore, they are more polished and liberal than some of their inland neighbours. The farmers, though none of them rich, are yet, in general, in comfortable circumstances. This they owe to their own frugality, skill, and industry; but, in some measure, also to the advantages of being near a considerable market town; the vicinity of two sea-ports; and the circumstances of their bordering upon Lochar moss, which supplies them with abundance of fuel; though, at the same time, from the great waste of time and labour, so precious to the husbandman, which

* *Antiquities.*——On the south side of the parish, not far from the shore, are scarcely to be traced the vestiges of a moated triangular castle; probably that from which the name of the parish is derived, and supposed to be the *Carbŭntorigŭm* of Ptolemy. A little to the north-east of these remains, are to be seen the still more venerable ruins of another and more modern castle, of similar shape, but much larger dimensions; long the principal residence of the noble family of Maxwell; which has been so well described by Grose and Pennant, as to render any particulars here unnecessary. Not far west of this castle rises the hill Wardlaw; on the top of which, are yet visible, the vestiges of a Roman incampment, conjectured to be the *Uxela* of Ptolomy. The hill afterwards served as a watch-tower to the castle; for which purpose it was well fitted, commanding a very extensive prospect in almost every direction.——On the borders of this parish is a mount, called the Bailey Know, one of these encampments called moats; near which, some iron hoops and chains were found. ——A little below Glencaple Key, close by the shore, was a cell or a chapel, dedicated to St Columba; near this is a well, of which no person was permitted to drink without leaving a portion of victuals, or a piece of money, as an alms to the inhabitant of the cell.

which procuring peats, eſpecially in rainy ſeaſons, occaſions, they earneſtly join in the general complaint of this part of Scotland, againſt the partial and abſurd duty which is laid upon coals imported into this part of the kingdom. To caſt, dry, and cart home all the peats conſumed in the pariſh, would occupy for one day 4762 perſons, together with 1382 horſes and carts, whoſe labour ought to be rated at L. 376. A few coals alſo are uſed by thoſe that are at a diſtance from the moſs.——Another great, though precarious advantage, is, that the farmers of this pariſh, in general, hold their farms of a landlord, whoſe wiſe and good maxims, in the management of his eſtate, have hitherto been, not to overrate his land, nor to remove his old tenants, ſo long as they are diſpoſed to keep their farms, whilſt they continue to be induſtrious, and while there is even a probability that they ſhall be able to pay their rent. The leaſes on the Nithſdale eſtate are always offered again to the old tenant, and renewed at leaſt two years before their expiration: a practice well worthy the regard of all thoſe landholders, who do not mean, by encouraging a competition of bidders, to ſtir up envy, and to raiſe their land above its juſt value.

The farmers of this pariſh, and indeed, generally ſpeaking, almoſt all its inhabitants, are natives of it. Excepting two Iriſh families, alſo, they are all of Scotch extraction. Here the fathers, for ſome generations back, have poſſeſſed the ſame farms which their children now cultivate. The tenants value themſelves as much on this antiquity of poſſeſſion, as if they were hereditary proprietors, and not without reaſon, as it ſtill has been a claim to the landlord's favour; and we truſt, that we ſhall not be accuſed of carrying our ſpeculations too far, when we venture to aſſert, that the perpetuity of poſſeſſion which the farmers enjoy, is not only

 favourable

favourable to their happineſs, but alſo to that with which it is eſſentially connected, their virtue. The love of eſteem is a moſt powerful principle of goodneſs; and ſurely men will be more anxious to obtain the good opinion of thoſe, among whom they have been born, and with whom they have long aſſociated, than of thoſe who are but the acquaintance of a day, and from whoſe neighbourhood they are ſoon, perhaps, to remove.

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF NEWHILLS.

(COUNTY, SYNOD, AND PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN BROWN.

Name, Situation, &c.

IN 1663, the lands of Capelhills were mortified for the maintenance of a minister, and a church was built upon them, by George Davidson of Pettans*, burgess of Aberdeen; in consequence of which, the south east corner of the extensive parish of St Machar was erected into a separate parish in 1666. These lands of Capelhills, (probably derived from *Capella*, a chapel), now assumed the name of Newhills, and from them the whole parish was denominated.——The parish forms an irregular hexagon, about 5½ miles in diameter; is in general hilly, and, towards the west end, may be called mountainous. The soil in the north-east part, which is low, is a deep rich mould on a good loamy bottom, producing early and luxuriant

* A very benevolent character. He erected, at his own expence, a bridge upon the great north road, over the Buxburn, a rapid stream in this parish, where he had been witness to some persons perishing in the water. He also mortified his lands of Pettans, in Belhelvie, for the support of the ministers of Aberdeen.

ant crops, inferior neither in quantity and quality to any in the country; but, in the far greater part of the parish, the ground is black, light, shallow, and spungy; incapable of resisting violent impressions either of heat or cold; not retentive of moisture in the droughts of summer, and apt to eject the roots of tender plants in the intense frosts of winter.——The air is extremely sharp and piercing. The most prevalent distemper is the rheumatism; commonly attributed to the influence of the east wind, which blows here with unusual keenness.——The river Don *, which forms the north-east boundary of the parish, is well known for its excellent salmon, which would be more abundant here, were it not for the cruives placed a little farther down the river. Pike and trout are also found in the Don, which is not navigable. There are also 6 rivulets abounding with small trouts and eel; several chalybeate springs; and three very copious springs of water of a most excellent quality in the parish.

Produce, Rent, &c.—The principal vegetable productions are oats, barley, sown grasses, turnips, and potatoes. About two thirds of the arable ground are annually cropped with oats and barley; and large quantities of grass and turnips are raised upon the more extensive and improved farms in the parish. So sensible are the people, in general, of the advantages

* About 1750, in a fine summer morning, between 5 and 6 o'clock, the bed of this river, for the space of 3 miles below the church of Dyce, was found entirely empty; and was passed and repassed by several persons who gathered the fish that lay sprawling in the bottom. No person observed the commencement of this uncommon phenomenon. About half an hour after its discovery, the water came down the channel again in a full body. This was occasioned probably by a chasm formed by some internal commotion of the earth, which was sensibly felt by some persons.

of the latter crop, for feeding their cattle, that even the smallest tenants have a portion of their ground in turnips. Potatoes have likewise been employed of late for the same purpose. A few pease and a small quantity of flax are raised. Seed-time commences about the middle of March, and harvest generally begins the 6th of September. Upwards of a third-part of the parish remains uncultivated, producing little else except heath. That it is susceptible of improvement, the adjacent farms, which 20 or 30 years ago were in the same condition, sufficiently evince. About 200 acres are covered with plantations; and there is a nursery of forest timber and fruit trees upon the lands of Auchmull. The soil is found very well adapted to the raising of seedlings; and the ground never having been dunged, the plants are hardy, and thrive remarkably in England and the southern parts of Scotland, from whence there is a large demand. The parish cannot be said to supply itself with provisions: for, though it exports a considerable quantity of barley to the breweries about Aberdeen, and a great deal of milk, butter, and eggs, is daily carried from it to that city for sale, yet so numerous are the labourers, mechanics, and manufacturers, whose sustenance comes entirely from Aberdeen, that the import of meal alone more than overbalances exports of every kind. There are 21 heritors, 3 of whom constantly reside. About 40 years ago, the parish contained 50 plough-gates of land, each occupied by one tenant, and yielding about L. 10 of yearly rent. They are now subdivided into at least four times as many smaller farms; the value of each of which, at an average, may be calculated at L. 8 *per annum*. There are likewise 14 large farms in the parish, most of which are in the natural possession of the proprietors. The greater part of these has, within a few years, been gained from the surrounding muirs; and each of them would, if let, now yield a rent of from L. 60 to L. 100.

The valued rent of the country part of the parish, (for part, belonging to, or held of the town of Aberdeen, has no valuation), is L. 1313 : 6 : 8 Scotch. A kind of valuation, supposed to have been the real rent of the parish, amounting to L. 4653 : 6 : 8 Scotch, was given in to the presbytery of Aberdeen by the heritors, in 1679. The mean rent of land is about 15s per acre; but, it must be observed, that every farm has a proportionable quantity of pasturage and moss annexed to it, the benefits of which, the tenant enjoys without any additional expence. Some of the best land is let at L. 2 per acre. The large farms are all inclosed with stone fences: the English plough is used on them, and is drawn by 2 or 4 horses. The principal manure is shell lime, brought from Aberdeen; from whence, likewise, considerable quantities of street dung are procured. Improvements upon one farm, which produces great crops, have been made by means of soap ashes, and other manure of a saponaceous nature. The soil also requires to be frequently laid down in grass, that it may acquire a consistency or body. This, however, proves no unprofitable management, as the grass fields are rented by butchers at a very high price. The lesser farmers still employ the Scotch plough, to which they frequently yoke oxen and horses together. Their infield, which is seldom allowed to remain in grass, is divided into three portions, which alternately receive the manure: barley is always sown in that part which is dunged, and the other two are cropped with oats. There are 88 ploughs in the parish; of which, 49 are drawn by horses, 7 by oxen, and the rest by both. The number of carts is 139 *.

Manufactures.

* A male labouring servant receives L. 2 : 10; a female servant L. 1 the half year. Common labourers are hired at 9d. a day, in harvest at 1s. and in time of mowing hay, at 1s. 6d. Many earn 1s. a day by working in the quarries, and in making stone fences, being paid by the piece. The day wages

Manufactures.—The principal article of trade, in the parish, is the cutting and preparing stones for the London market. Upon the lands of Auchmull, are 4 quarries; from whence are exported, annually, upwards of 45,000 square feet of litter stones, and some years above 15,000 tons of causeway stones. On another estate is a fifth quarry, from which, it is supposed, between 3,000 and 4,000 square feet of litter stones, and some thousands of the smaller ones, are yearly exported. All the quarries afford a very good kind of granite, exceedingly durable, and capable of a fine polish. About 50 men are employed in the stone trade, partly common labourers, hired by the day,—the rest are paid by the piece. Masons who dress litter stones receive 2d. the square foot; those who make the causeway stones, 1s. 6d. per ton. The carriage of the stones to Aberdeen forms an article of considerable profit to the farmers in the vicinity, who almost constantly employ their horses and carts in that way. Upon the Don, is a paper mill, containing two vats, and employing 16 hands; also a mill for teasing, carding, and roving wool, and for waulking cloths. In the parish are 5 mills for grinding grain.

Population Table.

Inhabitants in 1755	959	Under 10	182
in 1769	859	Between 10 and 20	238
in 1792	1153	20 and 30	316

Between

wages of a mason are 1s. 6d. of a joiner and gardener, 1s. and of a taylor, 6d. None of the above, except the last mentioned, and those hired by the half-year, have victuals furnished by their employer. The annual expence of a married labourer, with three or four young children, cannot be estimated at less than L. 15 sterling. The price of provisions is always regulated by the Aberdeen market.

Between 40 and 60	303	Masons	8
60 and 80	104	Weavers	6
80 and 90	8	Shoemakers	5
Above 90	2	Taylors	7
Males	550	Butchers	6
Females	603	Episcopalians	15
Married persons	384	Seceders	10
Widowers and widows	45	Quakers	14
Single persons	724	Yearly average of baptisms	21
Born in the parish	418	of marriages	8
in other districts	735	Black cattle	900
Male servants	86	Sheep	600
Female, do.	46	Horses	230
Blacksmiths	6	Carts	130
Joiners	6		

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The settlement for the minister, made by Mr Davidson, was all in land, and now consists of 110 acres of infield, 250 acres of fold, 100 acres of pasturage, and 203 acres of hill and muir ground, together with the privilege of moss and pasturage; worth in whole L. 140 *per annum*. Besides this landed property, the minister receives about L. 7 sterling, for communion elements, &c. The Earl of Fife is patron. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 100 Scots; he has about 40 scholars in winter, and 20 in summer. The number of poor on the roll, is 18; the amount of the collections at the church door for their support, and the interest of a small fund saved therefrom, is L. 18 *.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are three annual fairs held

* In the parish is a cairn 108 feet long, by 38 feet broad; many tumuli, on the top of one of which is a small monument, made of dressed stones well cemented

held at Greenburn in this parish, for the sale of cattle, horses, and different kinds of hard-ware.—There is plenty of fuel, not only for consumption, but also for sale.—The people are well entitled to the character of industry, sobriety, and temperance. Of their moral and religious character, a favourable idea may be formed from their regular and decent attendance upon divine worship.——There are 3 alehouses, chiefly frequented by travellers, upon the two public roads that run through this parish, which are kept in excellent repair.

cemented with lime, 8 feet long, 5 broad, and 4 in height; some remains of a druidical temple; the vestiges of an old chapel: and in one of the dens of the hill of Elrick, is to be seen the mouth of a cave, supposed by the vulgar to penetrate for miles under ground, and celebrated in their legends as the residence of a noted robber and his gang. He was slain by an ancestor of the Johnstons of Caskieben; and the weapon employed upon that occasion still makes a part of the arms belonging to that family. The cave is now shut up, in order to prevent its harbouring foxes and other ravenous beasts.

NUMBER

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF LESLIE.

(PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE WILLIS.

Name.

THE original name of this pariſh was Fetkill; but when the family of Leſlie, Earls of Rothes, became the principal proprietors, they gave their own name to their poſſeſſions here, and the whole diſtrict came at laſt to be known by the ſame appellation.

Surface, Soil, Rent, &c.—The pariſh is in general flat, but riſes gently from the banks of the river Leven, which forms the ſouthern boundary. It is almoſt wholly an arable diſtrict. The ſoil is in general good——The real rent is not known. The valued rent is L. 4561 Scotch.—The parks of Leſlie are let annually by auction, and generally taken by the town's people of Leſlie, who pay, at an average, from L. 1 : 15 to L. 2 per acre. As they are paſtured by milch cows, and as

about L. 2 is paid for a cow's grass, it is necessary to keep as good cows as possible; and, indeed, more good ones are to be seen in Leslie, than perhaps in any town of its size. They commonly bring from L. 7 to L. 10, and are all of the Fife breed. Some Dutch cows were tried, and some of the Irish and Lancashire breed; but they did not answer, as the first were expensive to keep up in winter, and the last did not yield much milk. Almost all the lands of the parish have been cultivated; and by far the greatest part of them are either under crops of grain, potatoes, turnips, and flax, or in sown grass. The farmers now deal more in rearing cattle, and in general plough less ground, but, at the same time, raise more corn than formerly. While the farms were unincloseed, and little or no sown grass raised, the cattle gathered a miserable subsistence on bare leys; which, after resting several years, were broken up, and cropt, year after year, till they scarce produced double the seed. The land is now plowed by one man commonly with a pair of horses, instead of four oxen with two horses and a lad to drive them, as was formerly the case *.

Manufactures.——In the town of Leslie the weavers are the most

* *Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—In 1759, a day labourer's wages were 8d. without victuals. If he was employed during the winter and summer, he got only 6d. The yearly wages of a man servant were then from L. 2 : 10, to L. 3, ster. and those of a maid servant, from L. 1 : 10, to L. 2. But a sufficient man servant cannot now be got under L. 5 : 10 or L. 6, nor a maid servant under L. 2 : 10 or L 3, a year. A common labourer now gets 1s. a day. In 1759, beef could have been bought, between Michaelmas and Martinmas, at 2s 8d. per stone; it is now 5s 4d. The price of fowls and eggs is doubled. A good fowl is 1s, and a dozen of eggs, 4d.—Butter was 5d. now it is 8d. a pound. Milk was 1d. a pint, now it is 2d. Coals were 4d. a load, now they are 7d. Salt was 4d. a peck, now 6d.

moſt numerous ſet of handicraftſmen, no other claſs of mechanics bearing any proportion to them. Their principal employment is weaving plain linen and cotton checks, by which moſt of them can earn from 14d. to 18d. or 20d. a day. The chief employment of the women is ſpinning lint and tow. About 30 years ago, when they univerſally ſpun with one hand, a heſp or ſlip, which is the fourth part of a ſpindle, was thought a ſufficient day's work for a woman; and miſtreſſes required no more of their maid-ſervants when they ſat the whole day at the wheel. After they had ſpun their heſp, the reſt of the time was their own. Before 1770, a wheel for ſpinning with both hands was unknown in the pariſh, now almoſt none elſe are to be ſeen it. The manufacturers uſed to give only 10d. for ſpinning a ſpindle of yarn, ſo that, at that rate, a woman earned only 15d. a week; but now the manufacturers pay 1s. for ſpinning a ſpindle, and a woman can ſpin 2½ ſpindles a week, which makes 2s. 6d.

Stipend.——The ſtipend conſiſts of 42 bolls of oat-meal, 8 Dutch ſtones to the boll; 22 bolls of barley, Linlithgow meaſure; and L. 50 ſterling in money. The manſe was built in 1687, and repaired in 1789. The glebe is very indifferent. It is ſurpriſing to ſee ſome miniſters eſtimating their glebes, and adding their value to the livings; for there is ſcarcely a miniſter who would not give his glebe to any man that would drive his fuel, furniſh his family with milk, and a horſe to ride on when he is neceſſarily called from home: and, if the miniſter hath any tolerable ſkill in arithmetic, he might give the man, who would ſupply him with the above conveniencies, 5 guineas a year along with glebe; for in that caſe he would ſave the expence of a man ſervant, which, as times go, is at leaſt L. 12 or L. 14, and the riſque of loſing a

horse or a cow, which are fully as liable to mortality, in the possession of a clergyman, as in other hands *.

Poor,

* The following observations on the state of the clergy, transmitted by Mr Willis, tho' not immediately within the scope of this work, yet are here inserted, on account of their connection with the situation of so respectable and so useful a part of the community.

Patriots, and friends to mankind would wish to know how to ameliorate the condition of every useful class of men in the kingdom. With regard to the people at large, their condition and circumstances are every day becoming more comfortable and affluent; while those of the clergy are every day declining, verging to poverty, and its usual concomitant, contempt.

"Nil habet infelix pauperies durius in se,
"Quam quod ridiculos homines facit."

We all easily find out ways and means for the relief of the distressed, when we ourselves are well and at our ease. Some will say, that the clergy should return to that plain and homely fare and clothing, which their predecessors used at the beginning of the century. Not to mention other answers to this advice, even to live in that manner now, would cost double of what it did then. The boys in Heriot's Hospital live upon the same kind of food, and have the same kind of cloths, as they had an hundred years ago; and yet, I suppose, it will be found, that the expence of their maintenance and clothing is now double of what it was then. Others will say, that the clergy should take farms; not considering how difficult they are to be got. Besides, where one minister will gain by farming, nineteen in twenty, or rather 99 in 100, would probably lose by it; as they cannot always be at the head of their labouring servants; nor are they, in any way, a match for horse-cowpers, cow-cowpers, brewers, and butchers, the people that farmers have to deal with. Gentlemen farmers are on the same footing as a clergyman would be; and sure I am, that there are not many instances of their meeting with much success.

There are two difficulties in the way of applying for an augmentation of stipends. The certain and almost unlimited expence of such an application, (if the heritors vigorously oppose the measure, as they often have done,) and the absolute uncertainty of obtaining it, as the courts of law are vested with arbitrary powers to give or to refuse. "Arbitria judicum pro legibus sunt." If it be said, Is not the victual, of which part of our stipends often consists, more

valuable

Poor, Funds, &c.——The collections at the church doors amount, on an average of the laſt 10 years, to L. 18 *per annum*;

valuable in this century than in the laſt? I ſuppoſe if you will pitch upon any 20 years of the laſt century, and compare them with the 20 correſponding years in this, you will find the difference next to nothing; for beſides, that from the improvements in agriculture, by which grain is raiſed in greater quantities, and has become an article of commerce, it neither riſes ſo high, nor falls ſo low as formerly.

There ſeems to be but one way, in which the condition of the clergy can be ameliorated, with the leaſt loſs to the public at large, and to the feweſt individuals. In Scotland, the tithes of ſeveral pariſhes, which belonged to religious houſes are veſted in the Crown, and are let in leaſe for two or three lives; for which the tenant is bound to pay a certain annual ſum to the Exchequer. At the firſt eſtabliſhment of the Preſbyterian form of church government here, the biſhops rents alſo were veſted in the Crown, I have no doubt, from a counter-revolution being not only poſſible but probable; and which actually took place. Again, at the Revolution, theſe were in like manner veſted in the Crown, and for the ſame reaſon: for if King William had been as well aſſured of the ſupport of the Epiſcopal clergy, as he was of the Preſbyterian, the form of church government had not been altered at that time. So that theſe unalienated tithes and biſhops rents are the patrimony of the church, and ſeem to have been veſted in the crown as a depoſit; for they were never forfeited by rebellion or otherwiſe; and were lodged there, as a proviſion againſt an event, which now, by the treaty of union, and the king's coronation oath, never can take place. It is greatly to the honour of the legiſlature, that it has reſtored their family eſtates to men whoſe anceſtors had forfeited them by rebellion; and hence, I ſhould think it very unhandſome, upon a proper application, to refuſe to their very beſt and firmeſt friends that part of their patrimony, from which they are excluded on account of no rebellion or forfeiture whatever. Suppoſe this reſtored, who would ſuffer any loſs? As to the loſs to the Exchequer, what a trifle is it to an empire which has ſuch revenues as ours? As to the loſs to the collectors, it would be a very ſerious one, and a mighty hardſhip indeed, to extinguiſh no leſs than about a dozen of ſinecure places. With regard to the tackſmen, whoſe tacks are good for their term of years, would it make any difference to them, to pay the tack-duty to the church, in place of paying it to the exchequer?

I ſhall mention but one conſequence, if the incomes of the clergy be not ameliorated,

num; the hire of the mortcloths to L. 3 : 10; and the interest of principal sums belonging to the parish to L. 25, making

meliorated, the decline of learning will follow. This must infallibly be the case in any state, where there is not a rank which requires a considerable degree of learning, where there is not room for a considerable number of the learned to be employed in it, and where that employment does not entitle them to a decent degree both of profit and of respect. Suppose the stipends of Scotland to fall as much in their value for half a century to come, as for half a century past, how few clergymen, who are enabled to give their sons such an expensive education, as a minister should have, would breed them to a profession where they cannot gain so comfortable a subsistence as many mechanics can earn? With what kind of young men would gentlemen be supplied as tutors in their families, and who are now so well supplied, by preachers and students in divinity? Though a Dionysius might make it worth the while of a Pythagoras, to come from Greece to Syracuse, to instruct himself and his courtiers, I suspect, that when Scottish lairds must send to Oxford and Cambridge for tutors to their children, few will be sent for, and fewer come to a country, where they can look for no farther preferment. England, I think, will continue to be the seat of learning; till such time as the livings of the dignified clergy of the church there, shall be reduced to as low an ebb, as at present are the livings of the dignified clergy in France.

I have ever been of opinion, that the downfall of the church will bury learning in its ruins; and this seems to be warranted by the history of all nations. That body of men, who are now sneeringly called Priests, their office Priesthood, and their employment, Priestcraft, and which I shall call, the Clerical order established by law, have been in all ages and nations of the world, the repositories of learning. In our own country, at the first appointment of the Court of Session, there was such a penury of the learned laity, that they were obliged to the church for one half of the judges. Wherever the clerical order has been creditable and respectable, light and learning have shone forth. Whence proceeded the first birth of learning, but from the priests of Egypt? Whither did the Grecian sages travel but into Egypt and the East? Were not the Brahmins, the Gentoo clergy, who were, and still are, of high esteem, those whom Pythagoras wished, and travelled to learn from? Were there not at Rome a Caius Julius Cæsar Pontifex Maximus, and a Marcus Tullius Cicero at the head of the college of Augurs? Was ever virtue, and piety, and learning more nobly supported than in the writings of the divines of the church of England?

ing a total income of L. 46 : 10. Of which, L. 4 : 14 is paid for ſeſſion clerk's and officer's ſalaries, quarter fees of poor ſcholars, houſe rents and clothes for the poor. About L. 41, on an average, is diſtributed among 33 penſioners, of whom 30 reſide in the town of Leſlie. The diſtribution is made weekly; none get above 1s. nor any leſs than 6d. This is a much better mode than that followed by moſt of the kirk-ſeſſions in the neighbourhood, who make their diſtributions monthly, thus occaſioning the poor to live plentifully one week, and

England? I have not heard, indeed, whether the Hottentots, the Cherokees, the Chictaws, the Eſquimaux, &c. ever had any clergy; and as little have I heard of the learned productions of thoſe ornaments of human nature.

Upon the whole, I cannot help thinking, it would be bad policy in any ſtate, to ſuffer a body of men, who, firſt and laſt, have been of no ſmall uſe to the intereſts of learning and of virtue, to languiſh in poverty, and dwindle into contempt. No doubt, the art of printing, and the eſtabliſhment of univerſities, have contributed, as well as the clergy, to the increaſe, and to the diffuſion of knowledge; but the clergy diffuſe knowledge, and the beſt kind of knowledge, to all men, high and low, to the cobler as well as to the king. While the ſchools of the philoſophers of old, thought it a profanation to enlighten the vulgar, the fiſhermen of Galilee, and their ſucceſſors, have initiated the vulgar in the moſt ſublime doctrines, and the pureſt morality; have ſuggeſted to them the moſt noble conſolations, and have drawn them forth to action, by the moſt exalted hopes. And who are the men, who provide ſociety (I do not ſay with the neceſſaries and comforts of life only), but with all its elegancies, with all its ſuperfluities, with all its luxuries? Who but the vulgar? They bear all its burdens, and I am ſorry to ſay, ſuffer all its hardſhips. And can juſtice or gratitude, can humanity and compaſſion, leave them to drudge in this world, like beaſts of burden, cut them off from all conſolation here, and leave them deſtitute of all rational hopes of enjoying a better condition hereafter? That, however, muſt be the caſe, if they are deprived altogether of the inſtructions of their beſt friends, and thrown into the hands of perſons who may be as ignorant as themſelves.

and beg or ſtarve the reſt of the month *. No diſtinction between the poor of the diſſenters, and the poor of the Eſtabliſhed Church is allowed.

For 17 years preceding 1781, the collections, on an average, were L. 15 : 10; the hire of the mortcloths amounted to L. 3 : 5; and the ſums diſtributed among the poor, to about L. 30 annually.

Since 1759, no perſon in this pariſh hath periſhed by hunger, nakedneſs, or want of lodging; nor have any taken to begging. During this period, it muſt be mentioned, that the heritors of the pariſh have not given one farthing to the poor, offerings at the church door excepted; and even theſe came only from one family, all the other proprietors being non-reſidents †.

Population.

* The poor, ſays Mr Willis, ſhould be treated like young birds, give them little at a time, but often.

† Many plans for the ſupport of the poor have been projected: this only ſeems certain, that wherever poors rates have been adopted, they have generally been found very expenſive. The philoſophers of the preſent day, inſtead of thinking, "whatever is, is right," ſeem to think, "whatever is, is wrong." Many new plans have been propoſed, and no one agreeing with another. I have always thought, that it is better to begin with amending an old plan, that has proved not to be very bad, that to take all at once a new one, however finely ſpun. I will venture to ſay, with reſpect to our old plan, that, of all the public funds of Europe, none are managed at ſo little expence to the fund itſelf, none ſo frugally, none ſo impartially, and none laid out more to the purpoſe for which they were raiſed, than the poors funds under the care of the kirk-ſeſſions of Scotland. Never, perhaps, will Scotland find a more proper jury to determine the objects of public charity, nor the quantum neceſſary for their ſupply. Two amendments may be ſuggeſted: The firſt is, to protect theſe funds againſt the burden of natural children being brought upon them, which could be done by altering the preſent law, and making the oath of the woman father all baſtards, as is the practice in England. The oath of that

Population.—When the returns were made to Dr Webſter, in 1755, the number of the inhabitants of this pariſh was ſaid to amount to - - - 1130

In 1756, the total number of ſouls was - - 1096
Of which in the town of Leſlie - 732
——— in the country part of the pariſh 364

In 1769, The number of ſouls in the whole pariſh 1165
——— in the town - 786
——— in the country - 379

In 1775, In the whole pariſh - - - 1189
In the town - - - - 786
——— males - - - - 344
——— females - - - - 442
In the country - - - - 403
——— males - - - 215
——— females - - - 188

In

party ſhould certainly be preferred who hath the leaſt temptation to perjury. The woman in all ordinary caſes of this kind has none: the man has a double temptation to perjury; for firſt, he gets clear of the cenſure of the church, and next, which to him is a matter of greater conſequence, he frees himſelf of the expence of the maintenance of the child.

In the next place, it were to be wiſhed, that the gentlemen in Scotland, before it be too late, would voluntarily give leſs or more for ſupporting the kirk-ſeſſions, and enabling them to maintain the poor; for ſhould kirk-ſeſſions give up their laborious and painful taſk, the gentry, who now give next to nothing, if they once came to be taxed by law for the maintenance of the poor, will find their rate operate pretty much in the ſame way as an heritable bond of the ſame extent, upon their lands. If every heritor, reſident, and non-reſident, were to give in as much to the kirk-ſeſſion, as it may reaſonably be ſuppoſed, his tenants and their families in that pariſh give, which may be 2d. or 3d. each Sunday, even that ſmall help would keep the poor from begging or ſtarving. Suppoſe the heritor has ſix tenants, it certainly would not be an exceſs of generoſity to give at the rate of a ſhilling each Sunday for the ſupport of the poor. The expence of maintaining the poor in England is well known.

In 1781,	In the whole parish	1211
	In the town	805
	——— males	338
	——— females	467
	In the country	406
	——— males	202
	——— females	204
In 1785,	In the whole parish	1212
	In the town	806
	——— males	344
	——— females	462
	In the country	406
	——— males	211
	——— females	195

Heritors

In London, in the parish of St. Martins in the Fields, the poor's rates, at 1s the pound upon the house rents, amounts to L. 10,000 per ann. and many parishes in London pay more than 1s. the pound. Many particular instances might be mentioned. At Alnwick it is said, the poor's rates amount to L. 600 per ann. while the parish of Alnwick is not more populous than some parishes in this neighbourhood, which have not L. 50 to support the poor. Yet very many of the gentry of Scotland will contribute almost nothing, which may render a compulsary law at last necessary. Is it not a shame, that so many gentlemen (besides never entering a church-door) never give a shilling from one end of the year to the other towards the support of the poor? When the heart of an heritor is indeed softened, and his hand opened, he may give once or twice in his life some carts of coals or bolls of meal to the poor; but it is to them no more than a feast at the time, and is soon done; whereas half the sum delivered to the kirk-session, and given out by them in shillings and sixpences would be of much greater service to the poor, who, as I have said above, can bear no wealth. Upon the whole, the proper way to maintain the poor, is to give them what is necessary to preserve them from starving, but not so much as to damp their industry, or encourage idleness; and even that little, they ought to receive, not as a right, but purely as charity; and I am persuaded, that all these purposes have been in general served by the management of the kirk-sessions.

Heritors - - - - -	4
Houſes in the country - - - -	84
Families in ditto. - - - -	84
Houſes in the town of Leſlie - - -	129
Families in ditto. - - - - - -	250

Since 1785, the population has not materially altered.

The great diſproportion between the males and ſemales in the town, and the difference in the country part of the pariſh, will appear ſtrange, but may thus be accounted for: In the town, the number of maid-ſervants is greater than that of men-ſervants, and the reverſe, in the country. Another reaſon may be, that the farmers in the neighbourhood purchaſe houſes in Leſlie for their wives to inhabit, after their death, and to which they come with their unmarried daughters. Beſides, in the country part of the pariſh, the farmers have no more dwelling-houſes than are ſufficient for themſelves and their ſervants: when, therefore, a cottager dies, his cottage muſt be let to another man to carry on the work of the farm, and the widow of the former, in that caſe, unleſs ſhe hath a ſon to ſupply his father's place, or a married daughter to whom ſhe might go to live with, rents a houſe in Leſlie, that ſhe may get coals driven for hire, and ſuch other things to buy as are neceſſary for her ſubſiſtence: and, beſides all theſe, ſome old women get houſes in Leſlie that they be near the church and the meeting-houſes, of which there are two in town, one of the ſect of Seceders, called Burghers, and the other Antiburghers. The town is choakfull of people, and has neither an empty nor ruinous houſe in it.

The increaſe of inhabitants in the country part of the pariſh, from 1759 to 1785, is probably occaſioned by the eſtabliſhment of two bleachfields; for the farmers in general keep

fewer servants than formerly, owing to a greater proportion of their farms being inclosed, and laid down with sown grass, than heretofore.

From 1780 to 1789, both inclusive, 321 baptisms are entered in the register, whereof 168 were males, and 153 females; 231 were baptised by the established minister, and 90 by Seceders. This, however, is no proper way of judging of the real number of births, as the register of baptisms is kept both inaccurately and irregularly, since 1732, when the Secession began. Some poor people, to save the trifling expence of 10d. omit to register the names of their children; and the Seceders, some through poverty and others out of superstition, do not register theirs. Some of the latter carry their superstition so far as to pay the dues, and yet forbid the registration.

*Miscellaneous Observations**.——The river Leven, which separates

* *Antiquities.*——In the parish is the old castle of Strathendrie, which formerly belonged to a family of the same name, of no small note in Fife. A battle has, probably, been fought near it, as 4 large stones, similar to those usually set up at the graves of persons of renown, who had fallen in battle, would seem to indicate. Near these stones stood a round hillock, called the Gallant Know; which, being supposed to consist only of gravel, was made use of a few years ago to repair the roads: But in the center of it was found a piece of pavement, surrounded with large stones, containing some bones, and two spear heads of copper, the one like the head of an officer's spontoon, and the other, in the upper part, like a mason's chisel. A stone coffin and urn were found near the Gallant Know, beside one of the 4 stones, about 1760. The old house of Pitcairn, which belonged to the well known Dr Pitcairn, is in this parish, but now in a ruinous state. Near it stood a tumulus, in the center of which, about 1770, was found a stone chest, full of human bones, (in particular several entire jaw bones), standing east and west. At the east end were found two urns of bluish clay, full of bones evidently calcined, and white as chalk.

parates this pariſh from that of Kinglaſſie, abounds with trout; and, about Michaelmas, great numbers of eels are taken in their paſſage from Lochleven to the ſea. On this account the lands of Strathendrie in this pariſh, were, before the Reformation, ſubject to an annual tax of ſome thouſands of eels to the abbey of Inchcolm.

There are in the pariſh quarries of whin-ſtone, but very hard, and expenſive to win; alſo ſome coal mines and lime-works.

The parochial ſchoolmaſter, beſides a houſe, has an annual ſalary of L. 5 : 11 : 1$\frac{1}{5}$. The ſcholars, at an average throughout the whole year, are 80 in number. The fees of teaching are very low.

There are 6 houſes where ale is ſold; but not one perſon or family ſupported by the profits of a public-houſe, all having ſome other employment.

Leſlie-houſe, a magnificent ſeat, built by the Duke of Rothes, round a court like the abbey of Holyroodhouſe, with a gallery three feet longer than that in the abbey, hung on one ſide with portraits of the connections of the Rothes family, and on the other ſide with thoſe of contemporaries and friends of the Duke, was burnt to the ground on the 28th December 1763. The fore-ſide of the ſquare was repaired by the late Earl of Rothes, in 1767.

Character of the People, and their Manner of Living.—— There is not, in Britain, a pariſh of the ſame extent, in which the people are more ſober, honeſt, and induſtrious, nor among whom there have been fewer groſs crimes committed, than that of Leſlie. Their manner of living is greatly altered: a remarkable inſtance of which is, that for ſeveral years after 1760, the preſent incumbent got all his wheaten bread from Edinburgh, and afterwards from Dyſart, rolls only being bak-

ed at Leslie; whereas now there are 3 bakers in this town alone. Their clothing and furniture are also much better than formerly. In the church of Leslie no person is ever seen in rags. The young men wear coats of English cloth, fancy vests, &c. and the young women, printed and white cottons, silk cloaks and bonnets, &c. The dress of the maid-servants makes no inconsiderable addition to the expence of a family in the article of washing. Their furniture also is much better. About 30 years ago, when the present incumbent was settled, there was not 6 clocks in the parish, and now there is not a house in Leslie where there is not either a clock or watch.

NUMBER

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF KINCARDINE O'NIEL.

(PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE, SYNOD, AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM MORRICE.

Statiſtical Table.

LENGTH in Engliſh miles	7	Families	500
Breadth	5	Inhabited houſes	500
Population about 1720	3183	Married perſons	800
——— in 1755	1706	Children, at an average from each marriage	5
——— in 1791	2075	Twins &c. born in the pariſh for the laſt 10 years	20
Males	893	Unmarried men above 50	12
Females	1182	——— women above 45	60
In villages	100	Widowers	12
In the country	1975	Widows	25
Under 10	417	Average of births for 6 years preceding 1791	35
Between 10 and 20	297	Of the Eſtabliſhed church	2041
——— 20 and 50	786	Seceders	
——— 50 and 70	465		
——— 70 and 80	76		
——— 80 and 90	34		

Seceders	10	Capital of their funds	L. 40
Roman Catholics	4	Annual income	L. 10
Proprietors residing	5	Stipend (glebe included)	L. 80
——— not residing	7	New houses built within these 10 years	76
Clergyman	1	Old do. pulled down	63
Surgeon	1	Scholars taught English and writing	240
Schoolmaster	1	——— Latin	4
Farmers under L. 50 *per annum*	60	Acres of arable ground	5560
Shop-keepers	10	Carts	72
Innkeepers	3	Ploughs	110
Smiths	6	Valued rent Scotch	L.3675
Masons	2	Real rent, 1750, ster.	L.1225
Carpenters	17	——— 1791, do.	L.1874
Weavers	17	Rents spent in the parish	L1234
Shoemakers	14	Value of cattle, sheep, horses, and grain, exported	L. 400
Taylors	20	Salt, iron, soap, and other necessaries, imported	L. 300
Millers	8		
Gardeners	3		
Dyers	2		
Female domestic servants	12		
Poor	3		

Produce.

Oats	4600 acres.	13280 bolls.	10s. per boll.	L. 6900
Bear	800	3200	12s.	1920
Potatoes	50	600	8s.	240
Turnips	60	1800	4s.	360
Sown grass	50	7500 stones.	6d. per stone.	187

Total value of annual produce L. 9607

Value

Value of Stock.

130	Horſes, at L. 5 each	L. 650	0	0
600	Beſt cattle, at L. 5	3000	0	0
1200	Inferior, do. at L. 3	3600	0	0
3000	Sheep, at L. 5	750	0	0
	Total	L. 8000	0	0

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The wages of a common labourer are 10d. a day. Beſt male farm-ſervants draw from L. 5 to L. 6 *per annum*, the ſecond ſort from L. 3 to L. 5; and beſt female farm ſervants from L. 2 to L. 3. 600 women are employed in ſpinning of lint, and knitting of woolen ſtockings; at which they earn from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per week. The price of all ſorts of proviſions is double of what it was 40 years ago. ——The fuel commonly uſed is peat, turf, and wood: the former, which is found in the pariſh, coſts about 1s. per cart load when carried about 2 miles; the turf 6d. per load. The people in general are economical enough; nothing could contribute more to meliorate their condition than the encouragement of induſtry.———There are about 500 acres planted with wood, in a thriving way: on one eſtate alone about 300 acres are planted.—Some free-ſtone is carried ſo far as Aberdeen, 20 miles diſtant.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF MIDDLEBIE.

(PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. MR. ABRAHAM NIVISON.

Name, Extent, &c.

MIDDLEBIE conſiſts of three pariſhes, Middlebie, Pennerſaughs, and Carruthers, now united into one. In the Saxon language, *Bie or Bee*, it is ſaid, ſignifies a ſtation; and the addition, *Middle*, has been given to this place from the circumſtance of being the middle ſtation between Netherbie in Cumberland, and Overbie, or Upperbie, in Eſkdalemuir; at both which places, as well as at Middlebie, are plain veſtiges of a Roman work.——This diſtrict is 9 miles in length, and 4½ in breadth, though of a very irregular form, interſected in ſome places by the neighbouring pariſhes. The ſurface is flat, with gently riſing hills interſperſed. The ſoil is very various; moſtly ſtrong, deep, and wet, upon a cold tilly bed, but fertile upon the whole. The air is generally moiſt: After a long courſe of rainy weather, putrid fevers prevail much.

Natural

Natural Productions, &c.—The parish abounds with freestone of a reddish colour, and with limestone, which is used both in building and for manure. About 30,000 Carlisle bushels (each equal to 3 Winchester's) are annually sold from the limestone quarries, at 11d. the bushel when drawn from the kiln. Many acres are employed in raising oats, barley, potatoes, turnips, rye, wheat, and flax. Oats are the most common crop. Turnips, rye, and wheat, are far from being general. The parish supplies itself with provisions, and exports a considerable quantity of oats, barley, and bacon.—Great numbers of cattle, (which are generally very handsome, and without horns,) are annually bought by drovers, and carried into England. It is a common practice, among the farmers, to buy young sheep in August, and dispose of them the following spring. The sheep are of the long English kind, with white legs and faces. Harvest generally begins about the 1st of September, and is not concluded till November. The rent of the best arable land is about 20s. the acre; inferior land lets at 8s. 9s. or 10s. The general size of farms seems to be 100 acres, and the average rent about L. 50 or L. 60. Property is not often changing; but when it does, the land sells at from 20 to 25 years purchase *.

Stipend, Poor, &c.—The living, as augmented 1792, consists

* The present price of butcher meat, butter, cheese, and grain, is much the same as in the Edinburgh market, and in the three Lothians. A goose sells at 2s 6d. or 3s. a duck at 8d. a hen at 7d. or 8d. So late as 1760, oatmeal, which now sells for 2s. sold at 8d. the stone.——The daily wages of labourers are 9d. or 10d. with victuals, or 1s. 3d. or 1s. 4d. without them;—of masons 1s. in the former case, and 1s. 6d. in [illegible]—of taylors, who never work abroad without victuals, 8d. The wages of male servants vary from L. 7 : 10 to L. 10 per ann. and female servants receive half of these sums. This high rate is to be attributed to the vicinity of England, where the wages of servants are still higher than here.

ſiſts of a manſe, a glebe of 12 acres, 5 chalders of victual, L. 66 : 13 : 4 in money, and L. 5 for communion elements, ſo that it is altogether worth L. 150 *per annum*. The Duke of Queenſberry is patron. The amount of the collections at the church-door, fines, &c. is about L. 17; which, added to L. 5, the intereſt of a legacy, makes the whole annual income of the poor L 22.——There has been no ſchool here for 40 years paſt; but the legal ſteps for having a ſalary fixed on a ſchoolmaſter will be ſoon taken.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—A woman died ſome years ago at the age of 109.——The principal diſadvantages are the ſcarcity of fuel, and the wetneſs of the ſoil. Some of the heritors are making trials for coal, of which there is a favourable appearance. The fuel commonly uſed is peat and turf; ſome coals are brought from Canonbie.——Near the church are the veſtiges of a Roman work, ſome account of which may be ſeen in Pennant's tour; and ſeveral coins have been found here. ——The people in general ſeem to be economical, and contented with their ſituation, though it cannot be ſaid that they enjoy in a great degree the comforts and advantages of ſociety: there are many means by which their condition might be meliorated.——The roads were originally made and kept in repair by ſtatute labour, which is now commuted. The turnpike road from Glaſgow to Carliſle paſſes through the pariſh, in which is a toll-bar, lately let at L. 116 *per annum*.——— Theſe are ſome ſmall tippling ale, or rather whiſky, houſes, in this diſtrict, moſt hurtful to the induſtry, health, and morals of the people.

Statiſtical Table.

Population in 1755	991	Merchants	2
——— in 1785	1356	Born in England and Ireland	3
——— in 1791	1404	Lawyers and writers	3
Males	696	Surgeon	1
Females	708	Of the Eſtabliſhed Church	1307
Annual average of births	48	Seceders	97
——— of deaths	25	Average number of children produced by each marriage	5 or 6
——— of marriages	13	Inhabited houſes	297
Under 10	360	Horſes	251
From 10 to 20	340	Milch-cows	639
—— 20 to 50	483	Other cattle, about	1278
—— 50 to 70	185	Sheep	3940
—— 70 to 100	36	Swine	594
Farmers and their families	705	Real-rent, ſterling	L. 3730
Weavers	20	Heritors reſident	23
Taylors	6	——— non-reſident	14
Joiners	8	Poor	20
Blackſmiths	6	Small Engliſh ploughs	46
Maſons	4	Scotch, ditto	63
Millers	4	Chain, ditto	4
Shoe-makers	2	Carts	167
Cloggers *	3		
Male farm-ſervants	69		
Female, ditto	80		

* Perſons who make ſtrong ſhoes with thick wooden ſoles; very neceſſary and comfortable in a moiſt climate and deep wet ſoil.

NUMBER

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF FOVERAN.

(PRESBYTERY OF ELLON, COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM DUFF.

Name, Extent, &c.

FOVERAN, in the Celtic, is said to signify a Place of Springs, or of Water; though the parish possesses no remarkable peculiarity with regard to the number or nature of its springs.—It is bounded on the east by the sea, on the north-east by the river Ythan, which divides it from Forvie, (the antient name of a parish now wholly overblown with sand), on the north by the burn of Tipperty; and extends 4 miles in length from east to west: the greater part of the parish is 2 miles in breadth. The nature of the soil is various, but for the most part fertile: next the sea it is sandy, next to that a fine deep loam, generally on a bed of clay; a considerable part consists of strong clay, some of which is cold, wet, and spouting. Scarcely any part of the parish is not arable. The corn fields are for the most part close and contiguous, as well as fertile; compensating in some measure for the want of trees, of which very few are to be seen here, though several plantations have been

been lately made. The ground rifes by a gradual afcent from the fea, but in no place to any great height; and the parifh, though not flat, is rather plain than hilly. The air is fomewhat fharp and penetrating, efpecially when the wind blows from the eaft; it is however abundantly wholefome. Vegetation is remarkably quick and ftrong; and the crops of fown grafs, in particular, are generally early and luxuriant.

Rivers, Villages, &c.——The river Ythan abounds with falmon, trout, and flounders. In it are innumerable beds of mufcles; which are fent to Aberdeen, and fold at 1s. 8d. the peck, not only for the table, but for bait to the fifhers, though the latter have of late difcovered a reluctance to purchafe them, as they have rifen in the courfe of 12 years to double their former value. The bait, however, which they ufe as a fubftitute for mufcles, not having anfwered fo well, it is believed they will be obliged to comply with the demands of the tackfman.——Pearls are found in the bed of the Ythan; and, a few years ago, were pretty fuccefsfully fearched for, three or four miles up the river.

At the mouth of the Ythan, is the village of Newburgh, a very dirty place, in a pleafant and commodious fituation. This village, though lying in a good corn country, half way between Aberdeen and Peterhead, and exceedingly convenient for importing lime, coals, &c. and exporting grain from all the neighbouring parifhes, has been unaccountably much neglected: it formerly contained about 200 inhabitants; but the number is now confiderably reduced from want of proper encouragements and regulations. Within the memory of many perfons in the parifh, 7 fifhing boats belonged to this village, now the number is reduced to one only, and even that is chiefly ufed for piloting veffels up the river. There is no harbour in the Ythan; an advantage which, confidering

the great number of ships that frequent the river, is much wanted, and which it is supposed could be obtained at a moderate expence, The Ythan is navigable for about 3 miles from its mouth: ships of 100 to 150 tons burden can come a mile up.

In Newburgh are 6 or 7 ale-houses; chiefly frequented by sailors, smugglers, and fishermen. In the country part of the parish is only one ale-house.

Rent, Agriculture, &c.—There are about 50 farms in the parish,; some of them large, extending from 200 to 1200 acres, some of a moderate size, and some very small, besides several crofts of from 4 to 12 acres. One farm of 1200 acres is rented at L. 200 *per annum*; another is let for L. 130; several from L. 60 to L. 80; others from L. 20 to L. 40; and a few from L. 15 to L. 20, converting the victual-rent at 13s. 3d. per boll. Besides the rent, the tenants are bound to perform several services; particularly that arbitrary exaction, known by the name of *bonnage* *, to which some of those who have lately taken farms, have refused to submit. The infield near the coast, which is in general the best ground in the parish, is let from 20s. to 30s. per acre.——The valued rent is about L. 4000 Scotch; the real rent extends from L. 2400 to L. 2600 sterling, including the salmon and muscle-fishings, which let at about L. 220 sterling.

Within these 14 and 15 years, agriculture has made very rapid advances in this district; and the method of cultivation has undergone a very remarkable change. Before that period, the lands were neither dressed, nor had any intervals of rest, but carried perpetual crops of grain, to the utter impoverishment of the ground. Now a great quantity of lime is used for manure;

* Vide Vol. I. p. 433.

manure; large fields of ſown graſs and turnips are to be ſeen; and conſiderable numbers of cattle are fed on theſe green crops. The grain uſually ſown is bear, oats, and peaſe. On two or three farms, wheat has been tried with ſucceſs, which, it may be preſumed, will tend to promote its more general cultivation. Harveſt begins about the middle or end of Auguſt. —In the pariſh there are about 300 horſes; 1500 cattle; and an inconſiderable number of ſheep; the nature of the ſoil and the mode of agriculture generally purſued, not being favourable to the rearing of flocks.

Trade and Manufactures.——The only trade that deſerves to be mentioned, carried on here, is the importation of lime, coals, and wood, (with which laſt 3 or 4 veſſels are commonly freighted yearly from Norway or Garmouth;) and the exportation of grain and meal. The demand for lime has, within the laſt 7 years, increaſed in an aſtoniſhing degree: at leaſt 30 cargoes having been imported this year. It is only about 26 years ſince the firſt cargo of that valuable ſpecies of manure, which was given gratis by one of the heritors to his tenants, in order to convince them of its advantages, was imported into this pariſh.

The ſtocking manufacture is carried on here, by the Aberdeen merchants, to a conſiderable extent; but ſince the improvements which have taken place in the ſtocking-looms, the price of knitting them has fallen ſo low, that the women who continue to knit can with difficulty earn a ſcanty ſubſiſtence. As the practice of ſowing lint begins to gain ground in this country, it is hoped that the ſpinning of linen, by which a good deal more can be earned, will likewiſe gradually prevail *.

* The wages of ſervants are triple what they were 40 years ago. Male ſervants-

Population, &c.——The population has of late considerably decreased, owing in some measure to the decline of the fishery, but chiefly to the practice of uniting several small farms into one. On a farm of 1200 acres there are not now 7 or 8 houses where 24 formerly were, and several emigrations have taken place from it.

Number of souls in 1755	1981
Above 7 years of age, in 1775	1150
——— in 1791 *	1025
Number of souls in 1792	1243
Males	580
Females	663
Farmers	50
Cottagers	137
Male-servants	97
Female-servants	124
Grooms	2
Gardeners	2
House-servants, male	2
——— female	2
Smiths	6
Carpenters and wrights	6
Taylors	5
Shoemakers	7
Weavers	3
Masons	6
Shopkeepers	6
Yearly average of births for 3 years	27
——— of deaths	10
——— of marriages	6
Average of children produced by each marriage	4
Methodists	50 or 60
Seceders	9
Episcopalians	7

Ecclesiastical State, School, Poor.——The stipend, including a

servants commonly receive from L. 5 to L. 6; and female servants from L. 2 : 6 to L. 2 : 10. a year. Day-labourers are hired at 6 d. a day, with their victuals, or 10d. without them. The price of provisions is regulated in a great measure by the Aberdeen market: Beef and mutton sell from 3d. to 4d. per pound;—hens from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.—and chickens from 4d. to 6d. the pair.

* Several are above 80; and one man in the 96th year of his age.

a glebe of 5 acres, is L. 95 ſterling.—The king is patron.—— The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 merks, and L. 3 : 6 : 8 ſterling. The funds for the ſupport of the poor ariſe from the intereſt of a capital of L. 210 ſterling; a mortification of L. 1 : 6 : 8 *per annum*; and the collections at the church-doors; which laſt, at an average, may amount to L. 20 *per annum*, excluſive of the annual collection for the infirmary at Aberdeen. The number of poor who receive alms (not including ſuch as are occaſionally relieved), is about 40; and each of theſe receive from 2s. to 5s. every quarter, for the diſtribution is made quarterly.

In 1782, the wants of the pariſhioners were, in a great meaſure, ſupplied by the importation of 4 cargoes of grain from England, which ſold at about 28s. per boll. As this price was too high for the poor to pay, the heritors contributed L. 20, the tenants L. 20, a third L. 20 was taken from the poor's funds, and L. 20 more was borrowed, making in all L. 80; with which the ſeſſion bought oat and peaſe meal: the former they ſold at prime coſt, 1s. 3d. per peck; and with every peck of oat-meal ſo ſold, they gave 2 pecks of peaſe meal gratis; by which means the poor had their meal altogether at 5d. the peck, and their wants were ſeaſonably and effectually ſupplied. One of the tenants not only advanced the laſt L. 20 without charging intereſt, but ſold a conſiderable quantity of meal to the poor at 1s. per peck, when it had riſen to 1s. 6d. in the market, as an evidence of his gratitude to Providence for bleſſing him, amidſt the general ſcarcity, with a plentiful crop.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations *.——The people are civil and

 hoſpitable

* There were in the pariſh 2 druidical temples, one of which was very complete, but both are now entirely deſtroyed. Near Newburgh, are the ruins of

hospitable to strangers, charitable to the poor, humane and compassionate to the ship-wrecked, when such accidents happen; and, in general, just and honest in their dealings. Smuggling, however, is frequently carried on, and tends in no inconsiderable degree to corrupt the morals of the people: but this contraband trade seems, through the salutary measures adopted by government, to be at present on the decline; and its total annihilation is devoutly to be wished for by every friend to virtue and industry.——The mode of living has undergone a great alteration of late. The tenants in general are in good circumstances, live comfortably, and maintain a decent appearance. A taste for finery in dress has pervaded all ranks. ——The principal disadvantage is the scarcity of fuel: peat is most commonly used, but procured with difficulty, owing to the scarcity of moss. The heavy duty on coal prevents its being more generally made use of, notwithstanding the facility of procuring it.——The roads in the parish, which are tolerably good, are made by statute-labour. Many of the tenants wish for turnpikes, being fully sensible of the advantages arising from them.

Hints for the Melioration of the Situation and Circumstances of the People.—— As proprietors, who reside upon their estates, have daily opportunities of observing the wants and sufferings of their tenants, whom it is equally their duty and interest to protect and encourage, they might probably, in a great measure,

of an old chapel, called the Red Chapel of Buchan. About half a mile from Newburgh, the ruins of the old castle of Knockhall, one of the seats of the family of Udny, pleasantly situated, strikes the eye of the spectator. Some remains of another castle belonging to a family of the name of Fiddes, now extinct, are still to be seen; and there are several tumuli or cairns in the parish.

ſure, ſupply the one and relieve the other, by adopting ſome ſuch plans as the following:

1ſt, To let their lands at moderate rents and grant long leaſes to their tenants; with ſuitable encouragement for making improvements on their farms, (either by clearing the ground of ſtones, draining, incloſing, or bringing muirs and waſte land under cultivation and paſture), and by allowing them a reaſonable compenſation for what they have judiciouſly expended on ſuch improvements.

2dly, To aboliſh all perſonal ſervices, eſpecially during ſeed-time and harveſt, together with miln-multures, allowing the miller only payment for his trouble in grinding the corn to the tenants.

3dly, To let farms of a moderate ſize to ſober and induſtrious tenants, even in preference to thoſe who promiſe a larger rent, which, after all, they may not be able to pay.

4thly, To prevent, by proper reſtrictions, in the leaſes they grant to their tenants, as well as by their own example, all unreaſonable and extravagant exactions of rent, as well as of perſonal ſervices from ſub-tenants; who too often feel the ſcourge of thoſe petty oppreſſors, to whoſe tyranny they are ſubjected, when they are not reſtrained by prohibiting clauſes, enforced by proper penalties in their leaſes. For inſtance, a tenant might be prohibited, under the penalty of forfeiting his leaſe, from letting land to cottagers above a certain ſum, (which muſt, no doubt, vary according to the nature of the ſoil, and the ſituation of the place), as well as from demanding any of thoſe feudal ſervices, which are only ſo many badges of ſlavery.

5thly, and laſtly, It might be advantageous, in an age ſo famed as the preſent for aſſociations, to inſtitute parochial clubs, conſiſting of the proprietors, miniſter, and ſuch farmers of the pariſh, as chooſe to become members, to meet twice

a year, in spring and autumn; when the former would have opportunities of inquiring into the plans adopted by the latter, in the management of their farms, and of giving seasonable advices to the slothful, and suitable approbation and encouragement to the industrious. At these meetings, at which the proprietors and minister might officiate in rotation, as presidents, a collection should be made by voluntary assessment, according to the different circumstances and inclinations of the members, out of which, after defraying the expences of the meeting, which should never exceed 1s. 6d. each, the surplus should be converted into a fund for encouraging industry among the cottagers. Out of this fund, small premiums from 5s. to 10s. might be distributed to 4 or 5 cottagers yearly, who should raise the best turnips or grass upon not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre each. By a judicious and impartial distribution of these small premiums, a spirit of industry and emulation would be excited among the cottagers; their crops of grass and grain would be more plentiful, and their situation and circumstances would become much more comfortable. By such periodical meetings landlords would become thoroughly acquainted with the situation, management, and conduct both of the tenants and cottagers; those ties which unite men to men would be drawn tighter and closer; sentiments of respect and gratitude—of attachment and confidence, would spontaneously arise and expand, in the hearts of the tenants towards their landlords, whom they would thus be induced to consider as their patrons and protectors; and, by this primitive and patriarchal kind of intercourse, so agreeable to a benevolent mind, the general harmony and happiness of social life would be improved and augmented.

NUMBER

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF DAMELINGTOUN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF AIR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. MR. DUNCAN M'MYNE.

Name, Soil, Climate, &c.

THE true orthography of Damelingtoun is ſaid to be *Dame-Helen's-town*, after a lady of rank and fortune, of the name of Helen, who built a caſtle near this place.—— The pariſh is about 8 miles long, and between 2 and 3 in breadth.——The ſoil in the lower parts, lying upon the river Doon, is a ſtrong, rich, deep clay: around the village of Damelingtoun, it is dry and gravelly; and towards the hilly parts, hard and rocky. About a mile below the village is a large moraſs *, which formerly rendered the climate very unhealthy, particularly to children; but ſince it has been drained, and two ſmall ſtreams carried through its centre, the climate is

* An experiment was tried to improve this large tract of uſeleſs ground, by covering it thick with water gravel, which had a wonderful and immediate effect; but the expence was ſo great, that it was found neceſſary to relinquiſh the ſcheme.

is become more ſalubrious, the children are ſtout and healthful, and there are now many inſtances of longevity in the pariſh.——Immediately beyond this large moraſs, runs the river Doon, where there is perhaps the largeſt tract of natural meadows that is to be found in any part of Scotland. Theſe fine meadows are apt to be overflowed, by which their graſs is filled with ſand and rendered hurtful to cattle; and often, in great ſpeats, a great deal of hay is carried away. In order to prevent this damage, the proprietors cut through a very high and ſolid rock at the foot of Loch Doon, (from whence the river flows), but the event did not anſwer their expectations. Loch Doon is a beautiful piece of water, 9 miles long, abounding in trout, with a hard rocky coaſt. On an iſland are the remains of a fine old caſtle, and there was a beautiful natural caſcade at the foot of the loch, before the cut was made.

Minerals.—The pariſh is full of fine coal, and freeſtone, in almoſt every corner of it. Theſe two uſeful articles terminate here, there being none to the ſouthward beyond this pariſh. Coal is carried from hence, to the diſtance of 30 miles, into Galloway. There is alſo iron-ſtone to be found in the pariſh, and lead in ſome of the hills. Near the village of Damelingtoun is the cheapeſt and beſt coal that is to be found in the weſt of Scotland.

Population, &c.—The following table will exhibit the ſtate of the pariſh, as to population, rent, &c.

Population in 1755	739	Annual average of births for 2 years	25
——— in 1792	681	——— ——— of burials	15
Above 12 years of age	472		
Below 12	209		

Rent	L. 1700	Sheep	8000
Black-cattle	800	Heritors reſident	1
Horſes	50	——— non-reſident	3

The population, in the country part of the pariſh, has conſiderably diminiſhed, owing to the monopolizing of farms, or conjoining a number of poſſeſſions into one; but it has increaſed in proportion in the village of Damelingtoun, which contains about 500 inhabitants. Seven fairs are held in it every year; and it has 5 or 6 public houſes, kept by people of good character. Near the village are two large commons, let at a reaſonable rate to the inhabitants, for feeding their cattle upon. Each common may feed 25 or 30 cows. There is plenty of coal, freeſtone, and good water, all around; ſo that, upon all theſe accounts, Damelingtoun is particularly well ſituated for a woolen manufactory, eſpecially as it is in the neighbourhood of numerous and fine flocks of ſheep. Accordingly, a few public-ſpirited men propoſe immediately to eſtabliſh both a woolen and a cotton manufactory here; which, in time, will probably be productive of the happieſt effects; as the inhabitants of the village are a ſober, induſtrious, regular, and well-informed ſet.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.——The ſtipend is 1200 merks Sc. all in money; with a glebe of 11 acres.——The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 100 Sc.———The average number of poor is 27, maintained by weekly collections, and the intereſt of a capital ſtock of L. 110. The monopolizing of farms, and the cheapneſs of houſes and coal in the village, has contributed much to increaſe the number of the poor; but they are very diligent and induſtrious.——In the pariſh are the remains of 3 old caſtles, one of them on an iſland in Loch

Doon, before-mentioned. A beautiful moat, ſurrounded with a deep dry foſſe, ſtands immediately above the village of Damelingtoun; and large cairns of ſtones are to be found in many places.

NUMBER

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF CULTER.

(PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDALE, COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM STRACHAN.

Name, Extent, Surface.

CULTER is a Latin word, ſignifying a Coulter or Plough-ſhare, though it is uncertain upon what account this pariſh was ſo named.——The length of the pariſh is about 8 miles; and the breadth varies, but is at an average about 4 miles. The level or lowland part of the pariſh, which is well cultivated and improved, is about 2 miles broad from the banks of the Clyde, which ſeparates this from Symington pariſh, to the foot of the hilly ground on the ſouth. The ſituation is delightful; and the proſpect, though not extenſive, is beautiful, the ground being moſtly either well incloſed with ditch and hedge, or covered with thriving plantations, which contribute greatly to adorn the country. Part of the ground is ſo plain, that an avenue to a gentleman's ſeat in this pariſh, though upwards of a mile in length, is perfectly level. The ſouthern diſtrict conſiſts chiefly of high mountains, called

Culter-heights and Culter-fell *, (which last rivals Tinto-hill in height), partly green, and partly covered with heath and coarse grass, well adapted to the breeding and feeding of sheep.——There are 4 pretty large store-farms in the parish, (though not without a considerable proportion of arable land in them, producing excellent crops) one rented at L. 70, another at L. 120, and the third at L. 240; the fourth is occupied by the proprietor. The number of English acres in the whole parish amounts to about 7377 †.

Woods, Soil, Productions, &c.——One of the hills is covered on one side with a large wood, consisting chiefly of fir, oak, ash, &c. part of which is natural. Many thousands of trees have also been planted in different parts of the parish, within these 7 or 8 years; and the whole district is so much improved by art, as must impress one with a favourable opinion of the good taste of the proprietors, who seem to vie with each other in improvements. The soil of the lower part, though in general naturally light and sharp, when justice is done to it in cultivation, seldom fails to make rich and early returns of oats, barley, potatoes, turnips, flax, or rye-grass and clover. Inclosed land lets at an average from 30s to 40s the acre; out-field land lets at various prices. Pasture-parks rent amazingly high: one of the proprietors finding this scheme advantageous, has let out a great part of his estate for pasturage, for some years past. The valued rent is L. 1600 Scotch, and the real rent nearly L. 1600 sterling.—The number of heritors is 7,

* It is worthy of remark, that on the morning of the 13th of June 1791, this hill was quite covered with snow.

† Mr Strachan certainly means that part of the parish which has been measured, not the whole district.

7, of whom 3 reſide principally in the pariſh. The people are in general commodiouſly lodged, the proprietors having built ſubſtantial farm-houſes for their tenants. More flax is raiſed here than in any part of the neighbouring country, and the ſoil is very proper for that crop. People from a conſiderable diſtance will chearfully pay 2s. 6d for as much land as is requiſite for ſowing a cap-full, or forpet of ſeed, 40 of which meaſures are allotted to an acre: each forpet generally produces from 12 to 25 lb. of dreſſed flax from the mill.—The harveſt is in general earlier by a week than in other pariſh in the vicinity.—The air in the ſouthern part of this diſtrict, is very ſharp in winter, the hills being generally covered with ſnow; while the inhabitants in the lowland places enjoy a clear and dry air.——Culter-water, which falls into the Clyde, after biſecting the pariſh, abounds with trout.

Population, &c.—The ſtate of the pariſh, as to population, and in other reſpects, will be ſeen from the following table:

Number of ſouls in 1755	422	Relief Seceders	30
——— in 1791	326	Burgher ditto	8
Males	147	Births from September 1785, to April 1791	40
Females	179	Marriages, ditto	12
Under 10	70	Deaths, ditto	30
From 10 to 20	69	Maſons	4
—— 20 to 30	64	Wrights	3
—— 30 to 40	49	Weaver	1
—— 40 to 50	32	Shoemaker	1
—— 50 to 60	26	Smiths	2
—— 60 to 70	12	Miller	1
—— 70 to 80	3	Ploughs	22
At 80	1		

Carts

Carts	51	Cows	181
Sheep	4610	Horſes	82

The horſes, which are generally bred here, or in the vicinity, are ſtrong made, capable of enduring much fatigue, and have lately advanced in value. A good many ſheep and black-cattle are fattened by the gentlemen, and ſome of the farmers, who find a ready ſale for them, purchaſers appearing from Lanark, Hamilton, and even from Glaſgow. Numbers are now alſo ſold into Biggar; where, for ſome time paſt, has been an excellent market for butcher meat of all kinds.

Stipend, School, and Poor.——The ſtipend is L. 41 : 13 : 4 ſterling, (including 50 merks Scotch for communion elements), 2 chalders of oatmeal, and 1 of bear. The glebe conſiſts of 8½ acres, and may be rated at L. 10.—Sir Charles Roſs of Balnagowan is patron.——The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 8 : 6 : 8, with a houſe and garden, and other emolumen's, amounting to about L. 5 more. The collections at the church-doors amount to about L. 8 *per annum*, a large ſum, conſidering the ſmall number of inhabitants, but owing chiefly to the liberal offerings of ſome genteel families reſident here. This, with the intereſt of L. 103, the capital of the poor's funds, is diſtributed once a fortnight among the enrolled poor, who are 7 in number; and part is employed in relieving the occaſional diſtreſſes of others, and in paying the fees of poor ſcholars. No beggars are to be ſeen in the pariſh.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.——The people are healthy, being moſtly employed in active occupations, and are ſober and exemplary. Rheumatiſms and colds are the moſt prevalent diſeaſes.———There are in the pariſh four encampments, all of a circular figure, called rings by the common people: likewiſe

a ſmall circular artificial mound of earth, on the banks of the Clyde, within view of two others at a conſiderable diſtance. ——The principal diſadvantages are the diſtance from coal, which is brought 11 miles from Douglas, and the want of a bridge over the Clyde, which is often impaſſable. There are few peat-moſſes here, and not many people who dig more fuel than is neceſſary for drying their grain for the mill.—There are ſome mineral ſprings, impregnated with iron; and iron-ſtone, ſaid to be of an excellent quality, is found in great plenty, in different parts of the pariſh.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF MARYCULTURE.

(PRESBYTERY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN GLENNIE.

Name, Extent, Soil, Rivers, &c.

THE original orthography of this pariſh ſeems to have been *Mariæ cultura.*—It is of an oblong form; 6 Engliſh miles in length, and 2 in breadth; extending from the river Dee to the Grampian mountains. The ſoil on the river ſide is naturally thin and ſandy; on the riſing midland it becomes deeper and blacker, with a bottom of clay in ſome parts; and more ſouthward, the ground turns ſwampy, turfy, and moſſy. The extremities of the pariſh are in ſome places rocky hills and moſſes; in others, green hills with large ſtones, ruſhy muirs, and heath. Indeed the whole diſtrict is rocky and ſtony, except ſome ſmall haughs and dales on the river ſide; and thoroughly to improve, incloſe, and render tolerably fertile, a piece of waſte ground here, may be almoſt termed a new creation. The old farms extended acroſs the whole breadth of the pariſh, from the Dee to the Grampians, by which means every tenant had a portion of all the different ſoils.

The

The Dee, which waſhes the north ſide of the pariſh for above 6 miles, is famous for its ſalmon, which are caught by flat-bottomed ſkiffs and nets. There are 5 ſalmon-fiſhings in the pariſh.——This ſtream frequently overflows its banks, particularly in May and June, after a ſnowy winter, which often damages the ſown land: but the moſt hurtful floods uſually happen in September, when they carry off great quantities of cut grain, and level the ſtanding corn among the ſand. A remarkable flood occurred on the 17th September, 1768, by which many ſuffered conſiderably.——There is a ferry for horſes, carriages, &c. oppoſite to the manſe.

Rent, Natural Productions, &c.—Including the farms in the poſſeſſion of the heritors, and the fiſhings, the rent of the whole pariſh will amount to L. 1000 ſterling. There are 28 ploughgates of land in this diſtrict; 20 of which belong to one heritor, and other two gentlemen have 4 each. Black cattle have been fed here, that ſold from L. 20 to L. 25 each. The produce of the pariſh more than ſupplies the inhabitants with proviſions. The old rents were made up of money, meal, bear, ſheep, hogs, lambs, poultry, butter, eggs, and manual ſervices; but, of late years, thoſe called *ipſa corpora* are all converted into money.—Red and white clover and rye-graſs are ſold by many of the farmers, as alſo turnips. Some of the beſt arable land is let at 20s. and ſome of the worſt paſture at 5d. per acre.——In the miniſter's glebe is a quarry of granite. A large portion of the pariſh is covered with wood. In Kingcauſie-wood are ſome deer of the roe kind, of a ſmall ſize, increaſing in number every year.—The pariſh in general is uninclofed. The people are convinced of the advantages of incloſing, but have neither money, nor length of leaſes, ſufficient for that purpoſe.

Manufactures.——Spinning and knitting worſted ſtockings is the general employment of all females from 7 years old and upwards. The combed wool for that purpoſe is given out by hoſiers from Aberdeen, in different parts of the pariſh, on certain days, called Factory Days, on which alſo the wrought ſtockings are received. Each pair coſts, for ſpinning and knitting, from 1s. to 3s. 6d. the cheapeſt are accounted the moſt profitable, both to the worker and the merchant.——The common fuel is peat and furze, but the peat-moſſes are now quite exhauſted. Peats are bought in Fetteresſo pariſh, at the rate of 1s. a ſmall cart load: coals can be got cheaper in Aberdeen *.

Population.—The ſtate of the pariſh, as to population, is as follows:

Number of ſouls in 1755	746	Diſcharged ſoldiers	3
——————— 1790	630	Chelſea penſioners	2
Males	280	Roman Catholics	25
Females	350	Epiſcopalians	8
Taylors	4	Seceders	2
Weavers	10	Annual average of births	16
Wrights	3	——————— of deaths	11
Norfolk plough-wright	1	——————— of marri-	
Sailors	4	ages	5
Shoemakers	4	Married men	120
Gardeners	4	Batchelors and widowers	14
			Inhabited

* The prices of proviſions are the ſame as at the Aberdeen market. The day's wages of a common labourer are from 8d. to 10d; of houſe carpenters, 10d. to 1s; and of taylors, 6d. and victuals. Male ſervants receive from L. 5 to L. 6; female ditto, L. 2, and upwards, per. ann. Male ſhearers, from 20s. to 30s. female ditto, from 15s. to 20s for the harveſt ſeaſon.

Inhabited houſes	145	Coach	1
Ploughs	36	Heritors	3
Carts	40 to 50	Miniſter's family (not included above)	34
Waggon	1		

This pariſh was more populous 70 or 80 years ago than it is at preſent. This decline of population is owing to the failure of peat and turf for fuel, and the removal of ſeveral perſons from hence to Aberdeen, with the view of getting conſtant employment.

Stipend, School, Poor.——The value of the living will be from L. 70 to L. 75 ſterling, including a glebe, 10 acres of which have been rendered arable by the preſent incumbent, at a great expence.——The miniſter, for ſome years paſt, has kept an academy, taught by two of his ſons; at which are uſually from 20 to 26 young gentlemen, ſome from the Weſt Indies and America, and others from England.——The poor receiving alms conſtantly, are from 30 to 35, and ſeveral are occaſionally relieved: the ſum of collections, annual-rents, and penalties, for their uſe, is from L. 30 to L. 38 *per annum*, of which about L. 4 is collected for, and given to the infirmary of Aberdeen. In 1782 and 1783, many lived very ſparingly and hardly in this pariſh: the kirk-ſeſſion bought meal and peaſe repeatedly at Aberdeen, when they could be got, and diſtributed or ſold them out at reduced rates; but the people have not yet recovered the extraordinary ſtreſs and expence of theſe years. The heritors are always doing good, and contributing to the relief of the diſtreſſed.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.——The people are generally ſober and induſtrious; and muſt be œconomical, as they can-

not afford luxuries. Some are 6 feet 2 inches in height; and a man who died lately, was 6 feet 7 inches high. A widow woman died last year aged 102, and a man lately at the advanced age of 104.——Potter's earth is found in the parish. ———The road along the south side of the Dee is in general good.—The statute labour is both exacted in kind, and commuted for money.—No turnpikes are needed or wished for in the parish.

NUMBER

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF DAVIOT.

(PRESBYTERY OF GARIOCH, COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. ROBERT SHEPHERD.

Extent, Surface, and Soil.

THE parish of Daviot, strictly so called, extends to about 3½ miles in length, and 2 in breadth. But several lands in the parishes of Chapel and Fyvie, were, in the end of last century, annexed to it, *quoad sacra*, by act of Assembly; so that the whole, under the minister's charge, is nearly 5 miles in length and 4 in breadth.——The soil of the parish is various, consisting partly of strong clay, partly of rich loam, but in general fertile. Its exposure is chiefly to the S. and S. E. and there are few hills in the parish.

Number of Inhabitants.——The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was 975 souls; the number of inhabitants in the proper parish of Daviot is nearly 700, but in the whole parish under the minister's charge, 900: of these, 40 are Episcopalians.

Rent

Rent and Size of Farms.——The whole rents of the pariſh are above L. 950 ſterling. The valued rent is L. 2250 Scotch. The rent of the farms is from L. 10 to L. 60 ſterling; and the ſize from 20 to 100 acres. There are above 500 acres incloſed. The new huſbandry begins to take place of the old, but a regular rotation of crops is not yet eſtabliſhed. One of the heritors buys yearly from the Weſt Highlands a good many cattle, which turn out uncommonly well when put into his rich incloſures. Owing to this circumſtance, however, it is impoſſible to give an exact number of the cattle, as this fluctuates very much, there being at preſent not 40 cattle where there were about 300. There are about 20 acres of turnips, and 300 acres of ſown graſs, ſome of it very old and rich. The inhabitants raiſe a good many potatoes for private uſe. ——The time of ſowing oats is from the middle of March to the end of April; of ſowing bear, from the middle to the end of May; and of ſowing turnips, the firſt three weeks of June: flax of late has been introduced, and is ſown in the beginning of May.—Harveſt continues from the middle of Auguſt to the middle of September.——The principal manure uſed in this diſtrict is lime, which is partly Engliſh lime, from Aberdeen and Newburgh, and partly Scots, from Udny and Pitmedden.

Manufactures, &c.——There is a licenſed diſtillery, and a flax, malt, and barley-mill, all which have good employment; and the knitting of ſtockings is general in the pariſh.——There are few good houſes in the pariſh, but ſome good houſes have been built for the diſtillery and mills before-mentioned.——The principal fuel is peats from the moſs, and turf from the muir.——There are two Druids temples, one of which makes part of the church yard.

Heritors.

Heritors.—There are 4 heritors in the parish; of whom one resides.

Ecclesiastical State.—This parish was formerly a parsonage or prebend in the diocese of Aberdeen, and was given as an alm's gift by Malcolm Canmore to the Bishop of Aberdeen. —The stipend was lately augmented, and is now three chalders of victual, and L. 53 : 6 : 8 sterling.

Miscellaneous Remarks.—The people are in general sober, industrious, and peaceable, and contented with their situation. —The advantages are early harvests, good soil, and the industry of the people; the disadvantages are short leases, distance from lime, (from Aberdeen twenty English miles), and want of encouragement to improve on any large scale.

Longevity.—One person in this parish died at the age of 113; her son is now 100, and in good health. The late incumbent at Daviot was about 56 years minister. At the time he was 50 years minister of this parish, there were four elder members in the presbytery of Garioch, the eldest of whom was in the 61st year of his ministry, and other two lived till they were 60 years ministers of the Established church. It is strong evidence of the healthy climate of the Garioch, that out of 15 members of presbytery, the 5 oldest upon the roll lived to be all of them nearly, and some of them above 60 years ministers, and from 80 to 90 years old.

NUMBER

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF BALQUHIDDER.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUMBLANE, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. DUNCAN STEWART.

Name, Extent, and Soil.

BALQUHIDDER, in the Celtic language, means a Village upon which five Glens open, or a Village in the centre of five Glens.——It is an inland and highland pariſh of about 15 computed miles in length, lying from E. S. to N. W. and the greateſt breadth is about 7 miles. The moſt conſiderable part of the pariſh conſiſts of hills, which in general are very ſteep and high, partly covered with heath, but moſtly green, the heather of late years having been much deſtroyed by the ſheep manure. The ſoil upon the declivity of the hills is for the moſt part deep and dry, and produces excellent paſture for black-cattle and ſheep, but from the height and ſteepneſs of the hills, ſeems particularly fitted for the latter. Part of the hill ground is ſwampy, producing ſprots and ſtrong graſs, fit for ſtanding winter ſtorms. The flat part of the pariſh is narrow; the ſoil of which is partly a light loam made up of ſand and clay, carried down with great rapidity by the

torrents from the adjacent hills, and partly ſour and moſſy, which is very level, a great part of it being covered by three lakes.

Lakes, Inundations, and Fiſh.——The lakes are Lochdoine, Lochvoil, and one half of Lochlubnaig. In time of floods, the intermediate grounds, both meadow and arable, are almoſt wholly inundated, ſo as to form one continued ſheet of water about 12 miles in length. There are, perhaps, 10 or 12 ſuch floods in a year. When any of them happen in the months of Auguſt or September, which is often the caſe, they occaſion very conſiderable damage. Theſe lakes are connected by the river Balvag, and are one of the ſources of the Teith, which paſſes through Callendar of Monteith, and runs into the Forth near Stirling. Theſe lakes and river abound in common-trout, bull-trout, and jar, all of an excellent quality; a few ſalmon appear in the proper ſeaſon, and great numbers in ſpawning-time. The trout is in greateſt perfection in April and May; the jar in Auguſt. There is a conſiderable fall at a ſmall diſtance from the foot of Lochlubnaig, where, by cutting ſome feet of rock, carrying forward the level, deepning a few fords, and ſtraighting the courſe of the river, it is likely a conſiderable quantity of ground might be gained from the lakes, the overflowing be greatly prevented, or at any rate more ſpeedily carried off. Mr Buchanan of Achleſhie, a conſiderable heritor in this pariſh, and an enterpriſing and ſucceſsful improver, has this ſeaſon begun to cut the rock near the foot of Lochlubnaig; if all the other heritors concerned will heartily co-operate, it is to be hoped the good effects will ſoon be viſible on theſe often deluged lands. The plan propoſed ſeems rational and equitable, viz. that the different proprietors upon the ſides of theſe lakes and river, ſhould bear the expence in proportion to the benefit which ſhall eventually ac-

crue to each. The only other lake in the pariſh is the head or weſt end of the beautiful Lochearn.

Hills, Woods, &c.—The hills in the N. E. and W. end of the pariſh are partly rocky, but, upon the whole, it cannot be ſaid that much ſurface is loſt either by rocks or barrenneſs of ſoil. The higheſt hills are the ſouth point of Benmoir, which, according to Mr Stobie, is 3903 feet above the level of the ſea, and the weſt ſide of Benvoirlich, 3300 feet in height.

According to tradition, all the lower grounds, and the foot of the hills in this pariſh, were formerly covered with woods. And in the moſſes there have been found large trunks of oak, aller, and birch. There is now little more of oak and birch than ſerves the inhabitants for roofing their houſes, and for the utenſils of huſbandry. At the laſt cutting, the oak-wood ſold at L. 1400 ſterling, chiefly for the ſake of the bark.

There are ſome appearances of lead-ore, on the property of Mr Drummond of Perth, in this pariſh: ſeveral trials have been made, but no proper vein diſcovered. There is abundance of limeſtone of eaſy acceſs, in different parts; but fuel for burning is ſcarce.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The air is moiſt, the climate being very rainy, owing to the great height of the hills which break the clouds, though at a conſiderable diſtance from any ſea. The heavieſt rains come by the S. and S. W. winds in ſummer and harveſt; and the ſevereſt ſtorms in winter and ſpring are from the N. E. The moſt frequent diſeaſes are fevers and rheumatiſms, probably owing to the variable climate, (the tranſitions from heat and cold being ſudden and irregular), to ſcarcity of fuel, damp houſes, and the people wearing the ſame kind and quantity of clothes in ſummer as in winter. After all, the climate cannot be called unhealthy. There are ſeveral in the

pariſh

parish just now above 80 years of age, and there have been different instances within the last 20 years of persons dying above 90 years old.

Number of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, &c.——The number of horses is about 170; of black-cattle, about 800; and of sheep, 18,000. The sheep are mostly of the strong black-faced south country breed. The size and hardiness of the animal seem to have been more attended to than the quality of the fleece, the wool being long and coarse. The average price of white wool unwashed, for some years past, is 7s. 3d. per stone, tron weight, and of the layed or tarry wool, 5s. 3d. per stone. If the quality of the wool could be improved without diminishing the size of the animal, or making it less able to endure cold in any period of its existence, it would greatly increase the value of lands in this parish. The only objection, which seems well-founded, to an attempt towards meliorating the wool in this climate, arises from this circumstance, that all the fine-wooled kinds of sheep are bare or short in the pile when dropt as lambs. The month of April and the beginning of May, which is the lambing season, are in this climate cold and often rainy; whence it is believed, that the rough or coarse wooled lambs alone could stand the weather. It will not be proper to have the lambing season more advanced in summer, because neither the lambs nor their dams will, in that case, be sufficiently strong and hearty to bear the severity of the ensuing winter. The carcase of a wedder, when three years old, commonly weighs about 40 lb. Dutch weight, and has from 4 lb. to 6 lb. of tallow, when fit for slaughter, towards the end of September.

Population, &c.—According to the returns to Dr Webster, the number of souls was 1592; at present it has decreased to about 1300. The annual average of baptisms for 6 years,

preceding 1790, was 54; of burials, 25; and of marriages, 13. The natural small pox was very mortal in winter 1786 and 1787. Five children in one family were cut off by this dreadful malady in the course of one week: this havoc alarmed the neighbourhood, and introduced inoculation with success.

There are 14 heritors, of whom 6 for the most part reside. The number of ploughgates of old extent is 60; 16 of which, both hill and dale, are now let in sheep-walks to 8 tacksmen: these were formerly occupied by 50 tenants, besides a number of cottagers; the remaining 46 ploughgates are divided among a number of small tenants, 3 and sometimes 4 to each plough. Upon each farm, besides the tenants, there are one or two cottagers, consisting of weavers, taylors, dyke-builders, and old-women *. There is 1 writer in the parish; and 3 students of philosophy from it attend the college of Glasgow.

Villages.—There are two villages in their infancy, one near the head of Lochlubnaig, and the other at the head of Lochearn, both upon the military road leading from Stirling to Fort William. The last is extending rapidly; the houses of it are all built with stone and lime, by the sides of the road. Each house-holder has a few acres of land, partly arable and partly in a state of nature, capable of being made arable: these the different

* Most of the tenants keep a maid-servant for the purpose of spinning woolen and linen yarn, for cloathing the family, and for sale; and for out-work in the season of peats casting, and of hay and corn-harvest, whose yearly wages are about L. 3 sterling. There are few men-servants employed, excepting herds, who, besides their maintenance, are allowed for their wages or fee to keep from 40 to 60 breeding ewes with their master's flock; the profits of which are from L. 8 to L. 15. sterling commonly. The wages of men labourers per day, are from 10d. to 15d. without meat, and from 6d. to 9d. per day with meat; carpenters get 10d. masons 1s. 2d. taylors 6d. with their maintenance.

different poſſeſſors are induſtriouſly improving, by draining, blowing, and digging up large ſtones to be uſed in incloſing their different lots. This muſt ſoon produce a different face to theſe lands, and, in the meantime, gives the traveller the pleaſant idea of the progreſs of cultivation in this quarter.

Diviſion of Lands, Rent, and Crops.—There is no part of the pariſh in common; the marches of each proprietor are known, and, with few exceptions, the marches of each farm are diſtinctly marked. Every farm has what is called a head-dyke, which divides the hill-paſture where the horſes, yeld-cattle, and ſheep of the farm, range, from the arable and meadow ground, and paſture of the milch-cows. Moſt of the farms are divided from each other by march-dykes; theſe, with a head-dyke on one ſide, and the lake or river on the other, compleatly incloſe the farms: ſome of them are ſub-divided. The rent of the hills is from 1s. to 3s. for the graſs of every ſheep. Where there are ſeveral ſmall tenants upon one farm, the farm is (what they call) *ſoumed*; which means, that the number of cattle it can properly maintain or paſture, is aſcertained, that none of the tenants may exceed his juſt proportion, nor over-ſtock the farm. The rule in *ſouming* is, 4 ſheep equal to 1 cow, and 8 ſheep equal to 1 horſe. The meadow and arable land lets from 5s. to 15s. per acre. The rent of the whole pariſh is L. 2600 ſterling. The extent of the arable and meadow grounds, bears but a very ſmall proportion to that of the hills. The crops are oats, bear, potatoes, and flax. The returns from oats are very inconſiderable, generally 2, ſeldom 3 or 4; of bear, from 4 to 6; of flax, about ¾ of a ſtone, tron-weight, from a lippie of ſeed, allowing it 200 ſquare Scotch yards of ground. The returns from potatoes are from 15 to 20 bolls. Moſt of the inhabitants ſubſiſt for breakfaſt and ſupper upon this uſeful root for at leaſt 6 months

months in the year: they commonly eat it with milk, and use it for bread to dinner with beef and mutton.

There are 4 mills for dressing flax; the average dressed for 6 years past, is about 600 stones.

No green crops are raised, excepting upon the farm of Edinample, by the proprietor, who farms, according to system, an excellent soil, lying upon limestone. The crops raised in the parish are by no means sufficient for the consumpt of the inhabitants: about one-fifth part of the oat-meal used, is imported. The price of provisions is regulated by the Stirling market, with the addition of the expence of carriage, and a small profit to the retailer.

Imports and Exports.——The imports are, oat-meal, small early oats for seed, tar and butter for smearing their sheep, which practice of late has become very general, being found of great benefit by defending the animal from cold, and improving the quality of the wool. The exports are, sheep to the Glasgow and Edinburgh markets, and also to England. For some years past there has been a great demand for sheep-hogs and lambs from the West and North Highlands, but it is decreasing, as these lands are now mostly supplied from adjacent farms that are already stocked: as a necessary consequence, lambs are falling in price, which must soon affect the value of sheep farms in this country, almost all of them being at present stocked with breeding ewes. The returns from a wedder stock will not afford the rent at which many of these farms are now let. A few black cattle are sold for *winterers*. A considerable quantity of wool, both white and tarry, unwashed, is annually exported.

Church, Poor, and Schools.—The church was repaired and the manse built in 1774. There are no sectaries of any denomination

mination in this parish. The value of the living is L. 80, all in money, besides the glebe, which is of no great value, most of it being either rocky or marshy ground. The Duke of Athol is patron *.

There are from 20 to 30 for some years past upon the poor's roll; the only funds for supporting these, are the Sunday collections, and the interest of a small sum accumulated from a few particular donations, and the surplus of the Sunday collections. This sum has increased within these 18 years from L. 25 to L. 100 sterling. There are two general distributions in the year, to such as can travel through the parish, for purchasing shoes, &c. and frequently to those who are confined by age or distress.

Besides the parochial school, there are other two charity-schools in the parish, with small salaries from the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge in Scotland. One of these is at Lochearn-head, the other about the middle of Strathire; these are upwards of 6 miles distant from one another; and each of them about 5 miles from the parochial school. There are from 60 to 80 scholars commonly in each of these schools, during the months of December, January, February, and March. Towards the end of Spring, most of the boys go to the low country, where they are employed in herding till the ensuing winter; and, besides gaining a small fee, they have the advantage of acquiring the English language.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The language of the common people is the Celtic †, but most, (if not all of them), can buy

* Mr Robert Kirk, one of the incumbent's predecessors, gave the first version of the psalms in the Gaelic language.

† The names of places are evidently Celtic; as, *Edinample*, which means, Facing

buy and sell and transact business with their low-country neighbours in English.

The military road from Stirling to Fort William passes through this parish 10 miles; 8 of which have lately been put in excellent repair at the expence of Government; 2 miles are still very bad, and there is so much *up* and *down* hill in the present direction, that it cannot be made a tolerable road for carriages. An alteration in the line has been proposed, which has this season been inspected and approved of by Colonel Montgomery; and it is hoped will be executed next summer. As the communication by Glenco and the ferry of Balachoalish to Fort William is now opened, when the alteration near Lochearnhead is made as proposed, the whole line from Edinburgh to Fort William or Appin, will be easy and comfortable. There are several lines of communication through this parish, which are yet only formed by the statute services. As these services are now converted into money, there will be a fund, which, if properly managed, will in a few years make these roads tolerably good. There are 2 excellent bridges, one of 3 arches, the other of 2, built about 10 years ago upon the water of Balvaig; and 5 bridges were built this year upon rapid burns in different parts of the parish by subscriptions in the country, with a small aid from the county funds.—Good roads and easy access to markets are to be numbered among the advantages of this parish. Want of manufactures, and scarcity of fuel, are its

Facing a Pool or Lake; *Glenogil*, a Glen covered with young Wood; *Strathire*, a Warm Strath; *Achtu*, a Plain growing Sprots; *Glenbuckie*, the Glen of Male-Deer or Harts; *Lochlubnaig*, a Winding Lake; *Stronvar*, a Promontory or Nose of a Hill; *Gartnafuart*, the Field of Cold Streams; *Murlagan*, Large Hollows; *Monochaltuaroch*, a Woody Hill facing the North; *Monochalmore*, a large Woody Hill; *Innercharnaig*, the Conflux of the Water of Heroes; *Drumlich*, the Ridge of a Hill; *Blarcrioch*, March-Field; *Innernenty*, the Conflux of the Black Water.

its principal diſadvantages. Peat is the only fuel uſed here, and is, beſides, of ſo difficult acceſs, that moſt of the inhabitants carry ſome coal from Bannockburn, a diſtance of about 30 miles.

The people are, in general, lively, intelligent, fond of news, and hoſpitable to ſtrangers. Few of them are rich, and not many of them poor: upon the whole, they live comfortably. The conſequences of the civil war in 1745 may with juſtice be reckoned the cauſe of their civilization. Till that æra, many ſtrong traces of the feudal ſyſtem, with its peculiar diſadvantages, remained. The men in general are from 5 feet 5 inches, to 5 feet 9 inches high, tight, and well-looking: the women, from 5 feet to 5 feet 6 inches, not remarkable for their looks; they rather exceed their circumſtances in dreſs before marriage.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF NEW CUMNOCK.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF AIR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES YOUNG.

Extent, Soil, and Climate.

THE name of the pariſh, and of moſt places in it, is derived from the Celtic. The form is very much of an oblong ſquare, being 12 miles in length from E. to W. and ſomewhat more than 8 in breadth; and the whole ſquare content of it may be above 100 miles, or 50,000 acres. At the church the dale country terminates, and ſouthwards the pariſh is generally a paſture country for ſheep. The ſoil is generally good and rough, and the hills are covered with green. The air is generally healthful, witneſs the long lives of many who have died above 90, or near it, and ſome now in the pariſh have reached that period.

Springs, Rivers, and Lakes.—In ſuch a hilly country as this, there muſt be ſeveral mineral ſprings, but they are not much uſed. The river Nith takes its riſe in the S. W. end, and runs through the middle, of the pariſh. There are 3 lakes on

on the north ſide, which run into the water of Lugar at Cumnock. There are ſeveral pikes found in this water; and abundance of trouts in the river Afton, which takes its origin in the ſouth part of the pariſh, and runs into the Nith near the church. Theſe rivers are not navigable. The Nith, for 3 miles, runs in a ſtraight wide plain with a ſmall declivity; which, in the opinion of ſome, was formerly a marſh: on both ſides of the ſtream in this plain there are fertile grounds and meadows, but they are ſometimes overflowed in ſpeats.

Minerals.—There are various mines of coal and lime, which ſerve the neighbourhood; though little is conſumed, owing to the want of a navigable river; in which caſe, a greater eſtate would ariſe from them than from the ſurface of the land.—— There is now a lead-mine working in Afton barony, about 3 miles S. W. from the church, in which a company of Quakers have entered into a contract. Twenty miners are employed, and more are expected according to the apparent ſucceſs. A wodd mine was lately found on the eſtate of the Earl of Dumfries.

Population.——According to the returns to Dr Webſter in 1755, the number of ſouls was 1497; though, when the preſent incumbent was ſettled, about 1757, the number was little more than 1000. It may now amount to about 1200, two villages having been built near the church, and on Afton-water, where there was but one houſe in 1757. There may be 40 births, near as many deaths, and about 10 marriages, *per annum.* There may be 80 farmers and ſtorekeepers, and more cottagers, 200 men-ſervants, near as many women-ſervants, about 400 horſes, near 1000 milch-cows and their followers. The number of ſheep cannot be eaſily gueſſed at.

Four or five of the lower kind of heritors reside in the parish, but the principal proprietors, who are General Stewart, Sir Andrew Cathcart, Mr Ross of Kerse, Captain Maxwell, &c. are non-resident. About 12 of the inhabitants are Seceders.

Produce.——The parish produces chiefly bear and oats. Abundance of potatoes are raised, and mostly used for the support of the inhabitants. Quantities of bear, cheese, and butter, are exported, and with them the farmers make up their rents. The crops are liable to several accidents when the harvest is late, and suffer much by early frosts, mildews, and shaking winds, especially in the marshy and fluid grounds. The harvest in 1790 was just finishing at the date of the minister's report, (9th November.)

Ecclesiastical State, &c.——This district was detached from the parish of Cumnock, and formed into a separate charge about the middle of the last century.——The present incumbent was settled in 1757; and his predecessor had the charge no less than 54 years.——The Earl of Dumfries is patron.——The living is L. 640 Scotch, including communion elements, one chalder of meal, and another of bear. The glebe is greater than the legal size, but lies open and unenclosed, the high road passing through the middle of it. ——There is an established school, endowed with a salary of L. 100 Scotch, consisting sometimes of 30, and sometimes of 40 scholars; but, as it cannot accommodate the one half of the parish, several private schools are kept in distant parts of it.——About L. 26 sterling arising from the collections at the church-doors, and the interest of L. 200 of capital stock, is annually distributed among the

poor;

poor, who are not very numerous, though the parifh is often incumbered with indigent ftrangers.——Near the church ftood an old caftle, now entirely demolifhed, which, for fome centuries, was the property of the Dunbars of Mochrum.

NUMBER

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF KIRKMICHAEL.

(PRESBYTERY AND COUNTY OF AIR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. Mr. John Ramsay.

Name, Surface, Soil, &c.

THE etymology of Kirkmichael, (the church dedicated to St Michael), is obvious. The ſurface of the pariſh is hilly, and, towards the ſouth and eaſt, mountainous and rocky; moſtly green, and of a clay ſoil, inclining to loam rather than to ſtrong clay, upon a tilly bottom. There are a few patches of light gravelliſh ſoil, in the form of conical hills; and, on the banks of the rivers and burns, are ſome flat dry holms. The ground is for the moſt part arable, but turns to the beſt account, where there is a judicious mixture of tillage and paſture. The climate is rather variable and moiſt, eſpecially in autumn, and early in the winter. The people are in general healthy, nor do any particular diſeaſes prevail.—— The water of Girvan runs through this pariſh; and the river Doon bounds it for ſeveral miles. The latter is a conſiderable ſtream, well adapted for manufactures, being a large body of pure, ſoft, limpid water, with many falls for machinery: by

a ſluice out of Loch-Doon, out of which it iſſues, the river can be kept under perfect command, ſo as neither to exceed nor prove deficient in reſpect of water.—The length of the pariſh is 9 miles, and its breadth 4.

Minerals, Fuel, and Woods.—Freeſtone is found in a few places, but no regular quarry has been opened. A great quantity of moor-ſtones are ſcattered up and down the ſurface: the grey granite chiefly prevails. Limeſtone has been diſcovered in ſeveral places, chiefly on the ſouth, where there are extenſive and valuable quarries of that uſeful article. No coal has as yet been diſcovered in the pariſh, though there is an appearance of it. The common fuel is coal, brought from 4 to 6 miles diſtance, and coſting 3s. per ton at the pit. An ordinary farmer will conſume 12 ton in a year. On 2 or 3 farms, peats are uſed in part. One hill is ſuppoſed to contain lead: ſome attempts were made to bring it to light, but without ſucceſs. Shell-marle has been dug out in a few places, but in no great quantities. There are immenſe ſtores of hard marle, of various degrees of richneſs; but, on account of its being ſlow in its operation, and not admitting of diſtant carriage, it has been uſed only in the vicinity of the pit. It would be a valuable treaſure where lime is ſcarce.——In the pariſh are many natural woods, chiefly of oak, aſh, birch, and alder, of great value to the proprietors, and very convenient for the country. They are cut once in 40 years, though, if they were properly managed when young, more crops might be taken.

Produce, Incloſures, and Manure—Of late, great quantities of good oats have been raiſed; ſome bear, a few peaſe, and little or no wheat. The culture of potatoes is well underſtood, and great crops are produced. Hitherto lint has appeared only

ly in ſome patches: turnips have been tried, but with no great ſucceſs, the ſoil being too wet, and the ſervants have an averſion to them, as they are thereby expoſed to much cold dirty work. Many of the farms have natural meadows, and ſeveral farmers ſow artificial graſſes, both for paſture and hay. In this remote part, hay cannot be ſold to any great extent. About 30 years ago, the country was for the moſt part uninclofed: low ill-paid rents, poor farmers, ſtarved cattle, puny horſes, no carts, and ſcarcely a tolerable inſtrument of huſbandry, prevailed every where. Now the reverſe of all theſe is the caſe. The farms, two or three excepted, are now all incloſed, and ſubdivided; the hedges in many places are excellent ſtrong fences; the work of ditching and hedging is well underſtood, and generally well executed. A kind of ſtone fence, called Snap-dykes, peculiar to Carrick and the north parts of Galloway, is admirably fitted for ſheep parks; being from 4 to 6 feet in height, ſtrong and firmly locked together at the top. It coſts from 4s. to 7s. per fall of 18½ feet.—— Lime, as a manure, is now very common, and is uſually laid out on the ſward, at the rate of 100 to 160 bolls of powdered lime, which coſts 6d. per boll at the kiln, on each acre, and gives a good return (from 4 to 6 quarters) after the firſt year. Oats weigh, at an average, 36 lb. the Wincheſter buſhel, and are the general and moſt profitable crop in this part of the country *.

Horſes,

* There is a method of preſerving corn, peculiar to this part of the country, called Rickling, thus performed: After the corn has ſtood ſome days in uncovered half ſtooks, from 40 to 60 ſheaves are gathered together, and put up into a ſmall ſtack, (the ſheaves being ſet up as erect as they will ſtick together,) and covered with a large ſheaf, as a hood, tied down with two ſmall ſtraw ropes. It keeps corn and fodder to admiration. Scarcely any ſpoilt grain is heard of in this country; though the climate is ſo wet, that without this

Horſes, Cattle, and Sheep.—For many years paſt, few horſes have been bred in this neighbourhood, the waſte being chiefly ſupplied from Ireland, though of late, owing to their increaſed price, ſome of the farmers have begun to rear them, and are well paid for their trouble, as home-bred horſes are more profitable, and more to be depended upon, than foreigners. Breeding cattle makes part of the buſineſs of almoſt every farmer: they are chiefly of the Galloway kind, ſhort-legged, long and deep in the body, broad above, without horns, hardy, handſome, eaſily fed, and tell well at the end of the balance. They are high priced to their ſize, but ſwell incredibly when promoted to better paſtures. The common breed of cows are not remarkable for the quantity of milk they give, nor is the dairy, as an article of export, much attended to in this part of the country, though good butter for private uſe is made here. The manufacture of cheeſe is not underſtood. At and above 4 years old, the bullocks and cut queys are driven to the Engliſh market, and fetch great prices. Conſiderable numbers of Highland and Scotch cows are fatted

this precaution, it would be difficult to preſerve it at all in bad ſeaſons. It does beſt with ſhort graſſy corn, keeps the grain ſound, and the fodder ſweet, and prevents heating in the ſtack.

There is a method of preſerving beans, practiſed here for ſeveral years, always with ſucceſs. When cut, they are laid in regular handfulls, all one way, and ſuffered to lie 8 or 10 days upon the ground; then two perſons going together, each lifts a handful, and ſets it down on the root end, the one oppoſite to the other, ſo as to be ſeparated at bottom, and to ſupport each other at top. The ſame operation is repeated on the open ſides, till it becomes a round hulk, and more is added all round, till it ſtands firm, always taking care to keep the heap open below, to give it ſtability, and to allow the air to paſs. It is wonderful how the hulks will reſiſt very ſevere blaſts; and the preſent incumbent, in the year 1787, had two acres of beans, which ſtood 44 days in the rain, without damage. When ready for ſtacking, they are bound with thumb ropes, and put on the carts.

for home conſumption. All the black cattle, the milch-cows excepted, lie in the fields the whole year round, and are fed in winter with hay and ſtraw. Few ſheep are raiſed in this pariſh: formerly every farmer had a flock which grazed promiſcuouſly with his black cattle and horſes. As there were no incloſures, and the ground overſtocked, all were in poverty, and in hard ſeaſons numbers periſhed for want: now, there is plenty of food both for man and beaſt. Many of the farmers keep a few ſheep for their own uſe, but nothing like a flock is to be ſeen except on two or three farms. Swine have been tried, but generally given up.

Rent.—The pariſh, at a groſs computation, is ſuppoſed to contain about 10,000 acres; 1400 of which are under tillage, the remainder in woods, hay, and paſture. Land lets from 3s. to 10s. per acre, on 19 years leaſes. The rents are generally well paid. The valued rent is L. 3904 Scotch. The ſtatute labour is commuted at the rate of 25s. for each L. 100 of valued rent.

Manufactures, Exports, and Mills.—Though there is not a town, and ſcarcely any thing that deſerves the name of a village, yet the pariſh is not altogether without manufactures: ſeveral thouſand ells of plaiding are ſpun and wove in it. In this article the old women, the wives of labourers, and the women ſervants of farmers, are occaſionally employed. The raw undreſſed plaiding brings from 7d. to 12d. per ell, and is ſold to merchants from Glaſgow, at Ayr and Maybole fairs. For ſome months paſt, the woolen manufacture has been greatly leſſened, by the weavers being employed in weaving muſlins ſent from Glaſgow, the muſlin being both a lighter and more lucrative work.——The chief exports are oats, oatmeal, black-cattle, woolen cloth, and from one diſtrict, ſome

butter

butter and cheese. A good many cattle are imported from the muir countries and the Highlands, kept a year, and sent to the English markets, or sold to Scotch butchers for the consumption of the manufacturing towns. Of late, the quantity of oats raised, and of oatmeal exported, has been considerable; though formerly the inhabitants were often supported, during summer, by importations from Ireland and the north of Scotland. In nothing has this part of the country received greater improvement than in kilns and mills. Formerly the latter were miserable machines, at which much time was consumed, and the grain horribly abused. Now, there are tyle kilns at all the mills, and at many of the farm-houses. The mills have excellent machinery, conducted by skilful tradesmen, and grain is manufactured cheaply and profitably. As good barley can be made in this parish, as any where in the kingdom. There is also an excellent lint-mill, which, it is hoped, will encourage the growth of flax.

Roads.—This parish is excellently accommodated with fine gravel roads, owing to the public spirit of the heritors, and their wisely foreseeing that it would eventually promote their own interest. About 20 miles of road have been made and supported for many years. In 1769, the heritors agreed to borrow a sum to enable them to make the roads at once, and to take the conversion-money, before mentioned, for their repayment, which was accordingly done. The benefit to the public has been great, and the heritors have been repaid in part, but not in full: if they should not receive full payment in specie, they will certainly be reimbursed by the increase of their rentals. There is not a turnpike in the parish *.

 Population.

* Among the improvements to be taken notice of in this parish, the visible

Population.—It appears probable, from ſeveral circumſtances, that this pariſh was more populous half a century ago than it is at preſent. At that time, the farms were ſmall, and abounded with inhabitants. When incloſing became general, about 30 years ago, the farms were enlarged and made more commodious. At firſt, many of them were laid out in paſture, and committed to the management of one perſon. As there was leſs country work, and few or no manufactures, many of the old inhabitants were obliged to remove. So far as the pariſh regiſters are preſerved, it appears, that there were more marriages and baptiſms, previous to, and about that period, than there have been ever ſince; though the returns to Dr Webſter from this diſtrict was only 710 ſouls, whereas the total number at preſent, is,

Inhabitants	956	Yearly average of burials	13
Married	294	Heritors reſident	1
Under 10	233	——— non-reſident	5
Between 10 and 20	219	Weavers, apprentices and journeymen	20
Above 20, unmarried	158	Carpenters, do.	14
Widowers	18	Blackſmiths, do.	6
Widows	34	Shoemakers, do.	3
Yearly average of baptiſms for 7 years, preceding 1791, from the regiſters	25	Taylors, do.	4
——— of marriages	9	Maſons	3

Eccleſiaſtical

ble alteration in induſtry, cleanlineſs, and comfort, that has been introduced among the common people, is none of the leaſt. In many of the farmers houſes, a man of good rank can be entertained and lodged very comfortably. Clean houſes, dry warm beds, and plain wholeſome well-dreſſed food are common here; and, to increaſe the reliſh of the whole, there is generally a hearty welcome, and in many individuals alſo a fund of rational, uſeful converſation.

Ecclesiastical State, School, and Poor.—All the inhabitants are of the Established Church. An excellent and commodious church was built in 1787. The stipend, including an allowance for communion elements, amounts to 48 bolls of meal, and L. 65 : 15 sterling, in money, with a glebe of 14 acres, worth L. 10 *per annum.* — The king is patron.——— There is an established schoolmaster, whose salary is a pitiful 100 merks, paid by many different hands. It is to be regretted, that an office so laborious and useful should be so meanly provided for. The schoolmasters certainly deserve compassion of the legislature, and it would be disgraceful to oppose a reasonable augmentation of their salaries.——The poor, on the parish roll, are from 16 to 20, very scantily provided for on the whole, as the funds for their support, arising from the interest of some mortified money, the collections at the church-door, and the fines of delinquents, amount only to between L. 20 and L. 30 *per annum* *.

Miscellaneous

sation. These are solid proofs of the increasing improvements of the country, though at the same time it must be owned, that what has been said above is not applicable to every individual.

* The daily wages of carpenters are 1s. of taylors, 7d. and of masons, 1s. victuals included in each case; of day-labourers, from 8d. to 1s. in winter, and from 10d. to 15d. in summer. Men-servants employed in husbandry get L. 7, and women-servants L. 3 a year, with bed, board, and washing. Wages of every kind have risen one third at least within these 15 years. The farmers employ two kinds of men-servants, the one such as are called Cote-men, who are married, and live on the farm, who receive what is called a benefit, viz. a house and yard, a cow kept in grass and fodder, 6 and one-half bolls of meal, liberty to plant a certain quantity of potatoes, from L. 4 to L. 6 in money, and a stipulated measure of fuel led home; worth in all from L. 13 to L. 15 sterling. The other kind of men-servants are unmarried lads, living in the farmers houses. The wiser farmers chuse a mixture of these; as the cote-men are steady, and the lads active. If the wages are higher than formerly,

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people are in general sober and industrious, and few have no visible means of subsistence. Many of the farmers are respectable intelligent men, who know they have a character as such in the country, and are at pains to support it. They are generally solicitous to give their children a good education; and there is a happy prospect in this corner, that many of the young people will turn out sensible useful members of the community. As to their religious character, there is certainly less apparent seriousness, and less respect to the external ordinances of religion, than were to be seen in former times. It is to be regretted, that a proper respect to religion should ever be diminished: it gives ground to suspect that there is not a real regard to it. If this increases, and becomes general, the consequences will be dreadful. Morals, among the bulk of mankind, will stand upon a precarious foundation, as they will be without the restraints necessary to keep them from going astray.

There are only 3 public-houses in the parish: indeed one might serve all the purposes of refreshment. Whisky, so prevalent

merly, much more work is done by the same hands. Threshing in the morning is universally introduced, and winnowing at night, that the light of the day may be employed out of doors. Such farmers as have large quantities of grain, get it threshed at 10d. the boll, or English quarter.

Butcher meat of every kind, butter, cheese, wool, and hay, are sold by the tron stone of 24 lb. avoirdupoise. The meal stone weighs 17 1-half lb. avoirdupois. The old measures for the county have generally gone into disuse, and the Winchester bushel is now universally used; 8 bushels make a boll of oats and barley, and 4 bushels a boll of wheat, pease, and beans; the potatoe peck contains 8 English gallons. With respect to oats and barley, the present measure is considerably better, and, as to wheat, pease, and beans, it is much worse, than formerly.— Beef, mutton, veal, and pork, sell for 6s the stone, fowls for 10d. and chickens 3d. each, butter 8d. and common cheese 3d. halfpenny per lb. tron; good bear, 20s. good oats, 18s. pease and beans, 14s the boll,

valent in many places, is not eſteemed a genteel drink in this corner. The general beverage, of late, among the better ſort of farmers, is good porter, which they find to afford nouriſhment as well as chearfulneſs, when moderately uſed.

The language is a mixture of Scotch and Engliſh, without any particular accent. In this diſtrict, as in every other, there are certain provincial words and phraſes peculiar to itſelf. It is probable that the Celtic was once the common language, as many names of places in this pariſh ſeem to be of that etymology.

It muſt ſtrike every one, that the advantages of this pariſh are very conſiderable. There are good roads, great abundance of wood, lime-ſtone in different places, immenſe funds of hard marle, and coal at no great diſtance. The diſadvantages it labours under are, the uncertainty of the climate, the unequal and ſteep ſituation of the ſurface in many places, and the ſpringineſs of the ſoil, the water often burſting out towards the baſe of the hills. This laſt inconveniency may, in a great meaſure, be remedied by draining.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF STAIR.

(PRESBYTERY, SYNOD, AND COUNTY OF AIR.)

By the Rev. JOHN STEEL, *of Gadgirth.*

Date of Erection.

STAIR was first erected into a parish in 1653, for the accommodation of the noble family of Dalrymple of Stair, whose residence was a great distance from Ochiltree, their parish church. With a view to this accommodation, that family agreed to pay three chalders of victual, one half of the stipend then allotted to the minister. The other half was to be paid by the parish of Barnwell, then suppressed and united to the adjoining parishes of Craigie and Torbolton. On account of some differences between the parties concerned in the transaction, and a wrong locality of the stipend, the errors of the first erection were rectified by a new process in 1709, when several lands were disjoined from, and others united to, the parish. This new erection, though it produced a different locality, made no alteration in the sum of the stipend; which, however small or inadequate to the support of a family, remains still unaugmented, though in some years it has produced no more to the incumbent than L. 35.

Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.—This diſtrict lies between the rivers Air and Kill; and is about 6 miles in length by 2 in breadth, though at one place it is completely interſected by the pariſh of Ochiltree. The ſoil, that of ſome ſmall vallies along the ſides of theſe rivers excepted, is a ſtiff clay. The general appearance of the pariſh, as well as the productiveneſs of the ſoil, has been greatly improved ſince the year 1735, when the preſent incumbent was ſettled. At that period, there was no fence of any kind, excepting one ſmall incloſure of fir near Barſkimming, and ſome coppices of natural wood. In ſummer, the cattle were herded between the different corn fields; and in winter, they ranged at large over the whole country: at preſent, every farm is incloſed and ſubdivided; and ſo completely have the notions of the commonality changed in this reſpect, that ſcarcely any perſon will agree to take a farm, or pay an adequate rent, unleſs the lands are properly incloſed: although formerly their prejudices againſt incloſures were ſo violent, that dykes and gateways were frequently broken down as ſoon as erected. This, the preſent incumbent had frequently the unhappineſs to experience when he firſt began to incloſe his property in this pariſh, and in that of Coylton.

Heritors and Produce.—The heritors are 6 in number. To the activity, exertions, and public ſpirit of the four principal ones, (Sir William Miller of Barſkimming, General Stuart of Stair, Mungo Smith of Drongan, and the incumbent), is chiefly to be aſcribed the rapid improvement of agriculture in this place, and the great increaſe of the value of their own eſtates, which are now ſucceſſively planted with thriving timber, incloſed and improved in a very elegant and judicious manner. The grain raiſed in this pariſh is, oats, bear, peaſe, beans, and wheat; turnips and potatoes are alſo cultivated. This and the neighbouring diſtricts are remarkable for produ-

cing

cing good cheeſe and butter. The practice of laying down the land with artificial graſſes, introduced by the incumbent in 1737, has contributed greatly to increaſe the quantity, as well as to improve the quality, of theſe articles of produce. To the ſame cauſe is evidently to be aſcribed the improvement which has taken place in this diſtrict, with regard to the breed of horſes and black-cattle. Both are incomparably better fed, during winter as well as ſummer, ſince the introduction of theſe graſſes. Inſtead of the naked paſtures upon which the horſes were formerly driven, the greater part, even of the ſmalleſt farmers, have at preſent a ſmall incloſure ſown with red clover, which is cut twice or thrice in the ſeaſon, and given the cattle in the intervals of work. The ſame expedient has alſo greatly increaſed the food of the milch-cows; winter feeding, however, is ſtill defective in this neighbourhood, the ſoil being too wet for turnips. The incumbent has been generally ſucceſsful in recommending to the tenants to plant rows of trees around their graſs incloſures, as a ſhelter and ornament to the fields.

Minerals.—The pariſh of Stair is exceedingly well ſupplied with fuel. On the lands of Drongan is an extenſive coalliery, which has been wrought above a century, to the great benefit of Air and the neighhourhood. On the property of the incumbent are alſo two coallieries with fire engines, which promiſe a long and cheap ſupply to the country of that neceſſary article of life. In the lands of Dalmore, upon the banks of the river Air, is a ſpecies of whetſtone, well known in the country by the name of the Water of Air Stone: it has been exported to different parts of Europe and America, and has been found preferable to every other ſtone for ſharpening edge tools. Near the ſame place is alſo a quarry of black lead, ſpecimens of which have been ſent to Whitehaven, and have been

found

found to anſwer all the purpoſes of that uſeful mineral. On the lands of Dalmore have been found ſome ſtrata of copper and antimony; which, from experiments already made, promiſe to be productive of theſe metals, and at ſome future period may probably be wrought to advantage. No limeſtone has yet been found in this pariſh, though, from its abundance in ſome part of the country not far diſtant, there is a probability that the agriculture of the diſtrict may be ſtill farther encouraged by the diſcovery of that article.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In 1755, the number of ſouls in this pariſh was 369, now it is increaſed to 518.—The church was lately repaired, and is in good order. There is no manſe at Stair, the preſent incumbent reſiding at Gadgirth caſtle, the ſeat of the family of Chalmers, to which he ſucceeded in 1748. When he was firſt ſettled, the tenants and labourers were poor, ill clothed, and worſe fed; the farm houſes were ſmall, ill furniſhed, and mean in their appearance. Notwithſtanding the advanced rents which they now pay, the tenants are in much better circumſtances, and their taſte for cleanlineſs, dreſs, and every decent accommodation, has increaſed in proportion to their wealth. The inhabitants in their morals are ſober, honeſt, and induſtrious; and, amidſt all the animoſities and diviſions which have ariſen in this country, they have remained ſteadily attached to the Eſtabliſhed Church. There are two turnpike roads in the pariſh; and three bridges over the water of Air; one of which was built in 1745 at a very conſiderable expence: another of them, erected at the private coſt of the late Sir Thomas Miller, Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, near his houſe of Barſkimming, conſiſts of one arch, ſpringing on each ſide from a perpendicular rock above 40 feet high. This, with his extenſive plantations, and other improvements along the banks of the rivers, aided by the romantic beauty of

the place, form a landſcape rarely to be met with in an inland ſituation.—It is only ſince the ſettlement of the incumbent that the uſe of waggons and carts has been introduced into this pariſh; formerly all the grain, manure, coals, and other articles, uſed to be tranſported from one place to another in ſacks or in creels, on horſes backs.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF RICCARTOUN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF AIR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER MOODY.

Name.

RICCARTOUN is evidently a corruption of Richardtoun. It is generally ſuppoſed to have been ſo called from a Sir Richard Wallace who lived in the vicinity of the village, and who is ſaid to have been uncle to the celebrated patriot, Sir William Wallace. Of his houſe no veſtige now remains: the place, however, where it ſtood, is well known.

Extent, Soil, and Rivers.—The pariſh is 6 miles long, and on an average 2 miles broad. The village of Riccartoun is within an Engliſh mile of the market place of Kilmarnock; and divided from the ſuburbs of the town by Irvine water. The ſoil of the pariſh is, in general, a deep clay. The lands are all arable and well incloſed, excepting a moſs which may contain about 250 acres.

Irvine water, which runs through the pariſh, has its ſource in the pariſh of Lowdon. There is alſo another ſmall river, called the

the water of Cessnock, which runs through part of the parish, and, in one place, forms the boundary betwixt it and Galston. Irvine-water produces excellent trouts. Sometimes salmon are catched in it.

There is nothing peculiar in the climate of this parish. It is subject, along with the other parishes on the west coast of Scotland, to frequent falls of rain. The weather is thus, at times, very variable; the inhabitants, nevertheless, enjoy a good state of health: nor are there any diseases peculiar to the parish. Although there be not many instances of people arriving at a very great age, yet not a few reach their 60th and 70th year.

Population.—When the returns were made to Dr. Webster, the number of inhabitants in the parish amounted to 745: they are now increased to 1000. The increase has taken place in the village.—There has been no register of burials kept in the parish for many years past: the annual average of births for 5 years preceding 1792, was 38; and of marriages, 12 *.

Rent.—The valued rent is L. 4000 Scotch. The real rent will amount to upwards of L. 4000 sterling *per annum*. Farms let from 15s. to 30s. per acre, and contain from 60 to 150 acres each.—There are 8 large proprietors of lands in the parish, with a few smaller ones. Of the greater proprietors, 3 either constantly or occasionally, reside in the parish.

Ecclesiastical

* Men servants wages are from L. 6 to L. 9, per annum. Women servants wages from L. 3 to L. 4. Day labourers receive 14d. in summer, and 1s. in winter, without their meat. Taylors now receive 9d. a day, with their victuals, which is more than double what they got about 20 years ago. Carpenters and masons have usually 20d. a day.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Poor, and School.—There are very few Seceders, and no Roman Catholics in the pariſh. Before the year 1648, there was only one miniſter for the pariſhes of Riccartoun and Craigie. A disjunction of the pariſhes was then made, and a miniſter ſettled in each. The church of Riccartoun was almoſt wholly rebuilt in the year 1772, and is in tolerably good repair. The manſe was lately rebuilt. The patron of the pariſh is Sir William Cuningham of Caprington, Bart. The ſtipend is 5 chalders of victual, meal and bear, L. 340 Scotch in money, with a glebe containing 8 acres of arable land.

The poor in this pariſh are, at preſent, but ſlenderly ſupported. Almoſt the only fund for maintaining them ariſes from the voluntary contributions of the people at church. A conſiderable ſum of money which belonged to them was, ſome years ago, loſt by the failure of a mercantile company. The number of poor is fortunately not great. There are only at preſent upon the roll 15 perſons, none of whom are permitted to beg. About L. 24 may be yearly collected.

The ſchool here is very well attended. The people are, in general, deſirous to give their children all the education which their circumſtances will permit. The encouragement however, is not great, the ſalary being only 100 merks. The wages are for teaching Engliſh 1s. 6d. for writing, 2s. and for arithmetic, 2s. 6d. per quarter.

Crops.—The principal crops raiſed in the pariſh are oats and bear: the farmers find from experience that the ſoil is much more favourable for producing oats. Till within theſe few years little or no wheat was ſown in the pariſh; a conſiderable number of acres are now, however, ſown yearly with wheat, which, when the ground is well prepared, ſucceeds very well. The uſeful practice of ſummer-fallowing is much more com-

mon than it was ſome years ago. Peaſe and beans are alſo ſown, and ſometimes prove a very profitable crop.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—At the village there is a mount of conſiderable bulk, the greater part of which appears to be artificial. On this, as on many others of the ſame kind, our anceſtors met for diſtributing juſtice.—— The people are in general ſober and induſtrious. The tradeſmen in the pariſh are, with a few exceptions, either ſhoemakers or weavers.——This diſtrict enjoys many natural advantages. Limeſtone is found in great quantities. The pariſh is alſo well ſupplied with coal at a reaſonable price. The coal belonging to Sir William Cuningham of Caprington, is juſtly eſteemed the beſt in Ayrſhire. Great quantities of blind-coal have of late been raiſed in the pariſh; carried by land to Irvine, and thence exported to Ireland. It was propoſed, ſome years ago, to dig a canal from Riccartoun bridge to join the ſea at the Troon; and it is to be wiſhed that this ſcheme could be revived and carried into execution, as the benefits which would ariſe from it, particularly to the proprietors of coal, would be very great.

NUMBER

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF MONTQUHITTER.

(PRESBYTERY OF TURRIFF, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER JOHNSTON.

Name, Extent, Soil, &c.

MONTQUHITTER, i. e. the Place for enſnaring the Deer, was disjoined from the pariſh of Turriff in the year 1649, and received its name from the farm whereon the church was built.——From E. to W. Montquhitter extends about 6 Engliſh miles,—from S. to N. about 9,—and from S. E. to N. W. about 10½ miles. The number of acres is therefore great, but they have not been aſcertained, unleſs on a few eſtates, by the land ſurveyor. As it abounds with large tracts of moſs, and with hills of moderate height covered with heath, the general appearance is dark and forbidding, until the eye is diverted to theſe extenſive fields which the hand of induſtry has reclaimed and enriched by tillage.—By the ſide of rivulets, the ground is generally red, deep, ſtrong, and cold, producing luxuriant crops which ſeldom arrive at full maturity. The dry ſoil, when of a red or black colour upon a ſtratum of deep and pebbly clay, repays, when properly cultivated, by rich

crops of grain and grass, the toil and expence of the husbandman. Large tracts of inferior quality have been improved to good account by lime and water; but tracts, still more extensive, of a light moorish soil, being denied by nature a proper degree of the vegetative principle, or having been reduced, by paring and burning, to sterility, cannot be reclaimed on a short lease to any advantage. It requires no less than 80 bolls of lime to stimulate an acre of new soil.

Notwithstanding the extent of mossy and swampy ground, the air of Montquhitter parish is pure and healthful. These fogs, called Mildews, though pregnant with mineral exhalations, seem to be more pernicious to the vegetable than to the animal tribes. The chin-cough, measles, and small-pox, return periodically; but the virulence of these disorders is now greatly lessened by judicious management. Rheumatism, consumption, and fever, are the diseases which most frequently prevail: but, perhaps, no parish in the island can be pointed out where health and longevity are more generally found.

Rivers, Minerals, Cattle, &c.—Montquhitter parish is watered by two small rivers, which receive the tribute of numberless and copious springs. One of these discharges itself into the Ythan: and the other, after assuming various names as it passes along, discharges itself, near Turriff, into the Doveran. These abound with delicious small trout of the common kind. During spring and autumn large trout, of a red colour, pay us a visit; but, when these strangers have obeyed the impulse of the season, they again return to the nobler streams. The trout, however, being much injured by the net, by the particles of lime washed from our fields, and by the essence of steeped flax, are daily decreasing in number.

Below a stratum of pebbly clay, extensive quarries of red freestone lie in the direction of a plane, much inclined from

E.

E. to W. This ſtone, though much impregnated with iron ore, riſes in large maſſes, and is very fit for building.

The cattle formerly reared in Montquhitter pariſh were generally ſmall ſized, though well ſhaped and hardy, until a ſuperior breed was introduced by the late Mr Cumine of Auchry, to whom this pariſh juſtly attributes its principal improvements. Prior to this æra, cows, that yielded 4 pints of milk in the day, were thought pretty good; few male calves were reared; and the farmer generally bought his oxen (whereof 12 were commonly yoked in one plough) when young, in diſtant markets, and ſold them, when old, at great diſcount. Now, cows give from 6 to 13 pints of milk in the day; male calves are carefully reared; and our farmers frequently ſupply, with labouring cattle, thoſe diſtricts from which their fathers purchaſed their numerous and expenſive ſets. Cows, according to their weight and quality, ſell from 4 to 8 guineas each, and oxen ſell from 5 to 10 guineas each: ſome oxen and cows far exceed theſe prices *.

* This pariſh can boaſt of one cave only, the work of art, employed for a purpoſe inimical to ſociety, and now deſtroyed. Towards the cloſe of laſt century, two young men, whoſe connections and reſidence were entirely unknown, appeared at every public meeting. A country man, who obſerved ſmoke riſing from a bank of moſs in a wild hollow, marked the place, and conveened the neighbours, who diſcovered the mouth of a cave. In the cave they found an old woman, who declared that ſhe and her two ſons had lived there for ſome years;—that her ſons had always ſupplied her with proviſions of every kind;—but that ſhe was prevented by various motives from mentioning why ſhe and they had ſettled in ſo clandeſtine a manner, and in ſo ſolitary a place. The woman thereafter lived and died in Montquhitter pariſh; but her ſons, when their lurking-place was diſcovered, left the country.——Some people having been purſued near that hollow, and others, who were known to have money upon them, having unaccountably diſappeared, it was ſuppoſed, that the Glanders (the name which the two young men aſſumed) had lived by theft and robbery, wherewith they ſcrupled not to aſſociate that

awful

Population.—In 1755, the return to Dr Webſter from this pariſh was 997 inhabitants. In 1757, the number of ſouls fell ſhort of 800; but, ſince that time, population has rapidly increaſed, partly by the practice of dividing large farms in order to accommodate ſmall tenants, but principally by the eſtabliſhment of Cumineſtown village, in 1763.

Number of ſouls in 1776	1400	Under 10	152
In the country	1136	From 10 to 20	192
In Cumineſtown	264	—— 20 to 50	498
Number of ſouls in 1791	1470	—— 50 to 70	168
In the country	1066	—— 70 to 100	56
In Cumineſtown	404	Merchants	6
Families in do.	110	Handycraftſmen	41
Males	171	Farmers	43
Females	233	Houſehold ſervants	2
Under 10	86	Labouring, do.	170
From 10 to 20	77	Of the Eſtabliſhed church	1400
—— 20 to 50	148	Seceders	5
—— 50 to 70	76	Roman Catholics	5
—— 70 to 100	18	Epiſcopalians	60
Merchants	5	Annual average of baptiſms for 7 years	35
Manufacturers	2	———— of burials, do.	20
Handycraftſmen	51	———— of marriages, do.	13
Apprentices	7	Heritors reſident	5
Servants	16	——— non-reſident	6
In the country, families	233		
Males	510		
Females	556		

The

awful attendant murder. Such is the force of early prejudice, that, for half a century thereafter, Glanders' hole and Glanders' how, were marked with dread by the older and weaker claſs of country people.

The rage of emigration never agitates the bosoms of the people, and every hovel boasts a suitable inhabitant.—— Strangers, upon settling here, find themselves much at home, and those who have been born in the parish are fondly attached to their native soil. "How can I live," said a poor fellow, not destitute of genius, who had wandered to Edinburgh in search of business, "oh! how can I live, out of the sight of "the bonny parks of Auchry?" To the bonny parks of Auchry his predominant passion obliged him to return, and he is now active in encreasing the population by a numerous family.

Appearance and Character of the People, &c.—The people are generally middle sized, raw boned, sinewy, and not a little distinguished by the characteristic feature of Scotland. Few exceed 6 feet in height, almost none are below 5 feet 5 inches. The men, for the most part acute, sagacious, sober, industrious, are now educated in a style superior to their station. Very few chuse the sea-faring or military line; but those who do, are esteemed for steadiness and bravery. The women are well shaped, active, and trained to manufacture from childhood. The Norman blood still flames on the heads of some; not a few are adorned by fair and yellow locks; but, in general, the animated countenance is shaded by black or by dusky hair.

Although no capital branch of manufacture is established in the parish, yet manufacture is greatly advanced by the labours of the people. Linen yarn is spun for the merchant almost in every family. Some thousand pairs of cargo hose, at 1s. per pair, are annually sent to market. Fine wool, given out by the manufacturers of Aberdeen, is spun and knit into stockings. A few make woolen and linen cloth for sale: and a numerous class of weavers are well employed.

A very great change, as to diet and dress, has taken place during

during the 40 years last past. Prior to that æra, neither tea-kettle nor tea could be found but in two families. Two hats only appeared at church. A lady adorned herself with the plaid; and a gentleman was not ashamed of home spun cloth. ——But now, most families drink tea once, and many twice a-day. The farmer, merchant, and tradesman, enjoy in a moderate degree the comforts and accommodations of life. The ploughman turns out to church and market with his hat, good linen, and broad-cloth; and, it may be taken for granted, that the country belles will exert themselves to outshine the country beaus *.

Stipend

* The price of provisions is greatly affected by the stile of living. 40 years ago, beef sold from 1d. to 2d. per lb. a hen or duck for 2d. halfpenny, 14 eggs for 1d. a sheep for 2s. a stone of cheese at 24 oz. per lb. for 3s. 4d. and a stone of butter for 6s. 8d.———But now beef, mutton, lamb and veal, in their respective seasons, sell from 2d. halfpenny to 3d. halfpenny per lb.—a duck or hen is valued from 6d. to 9d.—a stone of cheese is worth from 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. and of butter from 8s. to 13s. 4d.—and the demand from London estimates 12 eggs at 2d. or 3d. Our butter, which is very good, is presently in request; and I hope our country dealers will, for their own sakes, pay due attention to the curing of this valuable necessary.

A day-labourer, according to his merit and the season, draws from 5d. to 9d. per day. When he works by the piece he may clear from 9d. to 1s. The wright claims 1s. the mason, 1s. 4d. and the taylor, 5d. and his meat, per day; but most tradesmen work by the piece. The wages of hired servants are rapidly increasing. A growing lad claims, along with his food, L. 3 : 10, or L.4 : 10; a grown man from L. 4 : 10 to L. 6 : 10; a maid-servant from L. 2 : 2 to L. 2 : 15 in the year. Formerly a maid-servant or lad was well satisfied with L. 1, and a capable man-servant with L. 1 : 13 : 4. per ann. At that time the price of every other service was proportionally low.

The maintenance of a tradesman's or of a day-labourer's family does not entirely depend on what he himself gains; for if his wife and children are industrious, they share the merit of furnishing subsistence. When a day-labourer or tradesman rents a croft, his wife commonly pays landlord and merchant, by the produce of her cows, and by manufacture; and leaves it for the husband,

Stipend and Poor's Funds.—The church was built in 1764, and the manſe in 1778. The ſtipend was lately augmented to L. 61 ſterling in money, 34 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear. The glebe contains 12 acres, much improved by the preſent incumbent. Francis Garden of Dalgety, is patron.

The poor of the pariſh fluctuates in number. At preſent 30 perſons claim a ſupply, and, according to their reſpective neceſſities, receive from 10s. to 40s. each, *per annum.* This ſmall ſupply, in conjunction with their own induſtry, and the charity of neighbours, affords the ſober ſupport of life. A poor man, with a numerous family, often receives a preſent; and the dead of the indigent are buried at the public expence. The ſtock of the poor, excluſive of L. 11 mortified for a particular purpoſe, amounts to L. 120. Some time ago, the annual collections produced L. 12, but now produce L. 30 a year. During laſt century, the annual collections ſeldom amounted to, and never exceeded, L. 3 : 10 ſterling.

Progreſs of Improvement.—The pariſh can boaſt but of few perſons diſtinguiſhed for learning, but many eminent for valuable qualifications have been produced here, at the head of whom ſtands Joſeph Cumine, late of Auchry. Nature had endowed Mr Cumine with an active and vigorous mind. Cool, ſagacious, penetrating, he connected a ſound judgement and correct

band, by the ſale of cattle, and by his work, to furniſh bread. During the infancy and childhood of their family, parents of theſe claſſes are generally poor, but gradually riſe to eaſy circumſtances, as their children become capable of relieving the hand, and aſſiſting in the induſtry of the mother. By old age, or the contingencies of life, ſome are obliged to appeal to the gratitude of their children, or to the charity of the public. But it reflects honour on the genius of the people, that nothing but the hard hand of neceſſity can oblige them to adopt this laſt expedient.

correct taſte, with unſhaken reſolution and unwearied application. Slow, but ſure in planning, he was prompt and ardent in executing his deſigns. When he aſſumed the management of his eſtate, in 1739, it yielded L. 150 ſterling of rent, of which he could only call L. 60 his own. The heath extended to the back of his houſe: in front, an exhauſted moſs and a moraſs, fed by the water of Auchry, offended the eye: and the whole of his farm, deſtitute of a garden, conſiſted of a few acres dignified with the title of Place Croft. He gradually baniſhed the heath;—reduced the river to a regular channel;—converted the moraſs, when drained, into a neat garden and incloſures;—and, at various times, took from the adjoining lands 200 acres, which he converted into an elegant farm, incloſed and ſubdivided; where the uſeful and the pleaſant, blended by the hand of a maſter, command the reſpect of the critic, and excite the delight of the traveller. He accompanied his other improvements by a ſuperior breed of cattle, whereof, by judicious management, he greatly encreaſed the ſize and the value.

As his eſtate was extremely well accommodated with moſs, he gradually ſubdivided large farms. He ſtrictly prohibited the abſurd practice of paring and burning the moſſy ſoils: he made tracts, to improve by water theſe fields that could be commanded by it: he bound his tenants to drive annually from quarries, 7 Scotch miles diſtant, a preſcribed quantity of limeſtone, which he taught them to break, burn, and apply: he obliged them to ſow a certain proportion of their land with turnip, flax, and graſs ſeeds: he encouraged them to rear their own cattle, inſtead of waſting their money in buying expenſive ſets: he frequently walked or rode through his eſtate, freely converſing with his tenants, rouſing them to induſtry by motives ſuited to their reſpective tempers, and particularly diſtinguiſhing the ſagacious and active: and, by the

the united energy of popular virtues and ſolid ſenſe, he triumphed over every oppoſition from ſoil, climate, and prejudice, gradually introducing the principles of rational farming, and laying the foundation of progreſſive improvement.

Obſerving that his tenants were frequently at a loſs for a market, he determined to eſtabliſh a permanent one on his own eſtate. For this purpoſe, he planned a regular village, contiguous to the church, upon the mooriſh part of a farm, which in whole yielded only L. 11 a year. For a while, he felt in ſilence the ſneers of his neighbours, who reprobated this ſcheme as wild and impracticable; but theſe temporary ſneers ſoon gave way to laſting eſteem. He prevailed on a few to take feus: he aſſiſted the induſtrious with money;—obtained premiums for the manufacturer;—decided every difference by his arbitration,—and animated all to their utmoſt exertion by his countenance and counſel. Settlers annually flocked to Cumineſtown, (the name aſſigned to the chief of the clan), and the village, built of freeſtone, ſoon aſſumed a flouriſhing appearance. In connection with ſome neighbouring gentlemen, he eſtabliſhed in his village a linen manufacture; and though, for particular reaſons, the ſcheme was dropt, yet, by introducing the ſpinning of linen yarn, and fixing the reſidence of ſome capable weavers, its conſequences continue to operate for the public good. In ſhort, a ſeries of ſenſible management fixed upon Montquhitter 75 feus, occupied by a ſet of honeſt, induſtrious, and active feuars and their tenants, who, inſtead of L. 11 ſterling, the original rent, produced him annually from L. 120 to L. 150 a year. Mr Cumine, during life, was an object of general eſteem; and, at his death, had the pleaſure of leaving to his heirs an annual revenue of more than L. 600.

Rent, Produce, Agriculture, &c.—In the year 1649, the

rent of Montquhitter parish is stated at 325 bolls of meal, and about L. 210 sterling of money: at present, every item included, it extends to L. 1400 a year. Infield lets from 8s. to 15s. light land from 2s. 6d. to 8s. and land by the side of rivulets from 4s. to 10s per acre. Large tracts, almost on every farm, are not valued. At an average, farmers pay from L.10 to L. 30, and crofters from L. 2 to L. 10 *per annum.* Crofts are slowly diminishing, two or more being sometimes set to one tenant at a rising rent.—Most farmers fence, with dyke and ditch, a small spot contiguous to their houses: but neither the strength of their purses, nor the length of their leases, afford a sufficient temptation to rear a hedge, or to enclose with stones. Auchry's farm excepted, the rest of the parish is naked and open. Leases are seldom or ever extended beyond 19 years; in which period, no man can establish a plan of rational farming, and realize the profits. For the most part, therefore, an exhausted farm devolves on an exhausted tenant, whereby improvement of every kind is greatly retarded, and the interest of all concerned materially injured. A few proprietors now let their lands on a liferent: flattered with the hope of life, the tenant exerts himself to reclaim and improve; —he dies, and his family lies at the mercy of a selfish master.

A number of services are exacted, but not rigorously, by the proprietors, who would gladly commute them if the farmer inclined; but the preceding article may fully inspire the belief, that a man, who is not sufficiently encouraged to improve, will be too much disposed to save a little money at the expence of service. Earl Fife has entirely emancipated his tenants; and Mr Gordon of Letterfourie pays, at the usual rates, for what services he requires from his people in Asleed.

These political evils, united with a cold soil impregnated with mineral, are not sufficient, however, to counterbalance the

the efforts of induſtry, and a variety of local advantages. Among the local advantages, a diſtinguiſhed place muſt be given to abundance of moſs and water; by the ſenſible application of which, the value of land has rapidly encreaſed,—population is doubled,—a thriving village has been eſtabliſhed,—and the ſphere of manufacture is daily enlarged.

Conſidering the ſcanty ſtocks which the farmers enjoy, agriculture has made, and is ſtill making, rapid advances. Many fields diſplay rich crops and graſs. Potatoes, cabbage, and turnip, ſufficient for the kitchens and the cattle, are raiſed; and almoſt every family ſows a certain quantity of lint-ſeed, the produce of which is prepared for uſe at the rate of 2s. per ſtone, at a lint mill, erected by the late Auchry. Bear, oats, and peaſe, are the only kinds of grain which the farmer cultivates; and the harveſts, which vary with the ſeaſon, commonly conclude about the 16th of October. Though not 1 acre in 10 admits of tillage, yet, in favourable ſeaſons, both meal and grain are exported. In indifferent ſeaſons, the pariſh fully ſupplies itſelf; but in bad years, the wants of the inhabitants muſt be relieved by the produce of more early and fertile ſoils *.

* Prior to the year 1775, corn long of ripening was liable to be froſted.—Since that period the pariſh has been more or leſs diſtreſſed by the effects of the mildew. About the beginning or middle of Auguſt, the oat plant (for the barley ſuffers not) aſſumes a firey red colour; black ſpots then burſt forth towards the root, and, according to the ſeaſon, gradually or rapidly aſcend, till they reach theſe fibres that ſupport the ear. From that moment the circulation in the plant ceaſes; the grain ripens no more, and in proportion to the virulence of the diſeaſe, yields a ſmaller or greater quantity of meal, or becomes a heap of deſperate ſorrow. Various theories have been advanced to account for this phenomenon,—by the operation of inſects,—by mineral exhalations, by the cauſtic quality of lime uſed in manure,—and by a ſituation too confined. Certain it is, that ſome incloſures, comprehending from 6 to 10 acres each, and

During the feuds that raged in the leading families, and particularly in that fatal contention that called forth the potent and

and ſurrounded with hedges and belts of wood, have ſuffered moſt ſeverely.—In the year 1789, however, this vegetable diſeaſe occupied a larger ſphere, and diffuſed its baneful influence on fields which enjoy every advantage that the ſun and air of this climate can beſtow.

In ſeaſons of ſcarcity this pariſh has always ſuffered.—The tales told of the ſeven dear years, as they are emphatically termed, which concluded laſt century, are indeed tales of woe.——Some of theſe ſeaſons were not entirely unfriendly to vegetation, if the farmer had been provided, which he was not, with healthy ſeed to beſtow on his fields. The province of Murray, and ſome of the beſt land along the eaſt coaſt of Buchan and Formartine abounded with ſeed and bread; but moſt of the inhabitants of this pariſh, reduced to miſery, had neither money to purchaſe, nor horſes to carry theſe eſſential articles. A few facts will illuſtrate their extreme diſtreſs. From the time that famine was felt, to the time that plenty returned, oatmeal ſold for L. 16 Sc. per boll, and all the victual ſtipend, due for 7 years by the heritors, was paid for, with intereſt, at that rate. One Thompſon, wadſetter of Hairmoſs, driven from his home by want, was found dead, near the ſhore, with a piece of raw fleſh in his mouth. Of 16 families that reſided on the farm of Littertie, 13 were extinguiſhed. On the eſtate of Greens, which preſently accommodates 169 individuals, 3 families (the proprietor's included) only ſurvived. The extenſive farms of Touchar, Greeneſs, Overhill, and Burnſide of Idoch, now containing more than 100 ſouls, together with ſome farms on the pariſh of Turriff, being entirely deſolated, were converted into a ſheep-walk by the Errol family, to whom they then belonged. The inhabitants of the pariſh in general were diminiſhed by death to one half, or as ſome affirm, to one fourth of the preceding number. When the means of ſaving the living and of burying the dead began to fail, natural affection was in a great meaſure ſuſpended. A fellow, George Allan, having carried his deceaſed father upon his back, half way from his home to the church-yard, threw down the corpſe at the door of a farmer, with theſe words: "I can carry my father no farther. For "God's ſake bury his body: But if you chuſe not to take that trouble, you "may place it, if you pleaſe, on the dyke of your kail-yard, as a guard a-"gainſt the ſheep!"

Until the year 1709, many farms were waſte. About that time, the heritors enticed ſome ſubſtantial men, by the gift of a yoke of oxen, and by moderate

and hoſtile factions of Bruce and Cumine, trees were almoſt extirpated in Buchan. As this pariſh is comparatively level, and

moderate rents, to ſettle on their eſtates; or advanced, on what was called Steelbow, a cover on their farms to ſpirited and enterpriſing people, who, it was hoped, would gradually repay them. A ray of improvement burſt from theſe gloomy ſeaſons. One Morriſon, driven from his home by famine, lived for ſome years in Ireland, but returned to his country with the good ſeaſons, and brought along with him a few potatoes, which he taught the neighbouring gentlemen to cultivate.

Another ſeaſon of ſcarcity, occaſioned by deep and untimely ſnow, occurs in the year 1740. True, indeed, oat-meal roſe not above 13s. 4d. per boll; but as there was no manufacture eſtabliſhed in the country, and no work for the day-labourer, the utmoſt miſery, though it fell ſhort of death, was generally felt by the labouring poor. Many offered, but in vain, to ſerve for bread; and Mr Duff of Hatton, who was then building, found a number of ſtout men, who thankfully accepted two pence each per day in full for their work.

When the æra of induſtry and improvement commenced, it was fondly hoped that the wants known to our fathers would never be known by us.— "Our fields and gardens, ſaid we, produce a variety of proviſion, which will "infallibly preſerve us from ſtarving, even though our corn ſhould fail. Cat- "tle and manufactures will furniſh money, and commerce will readily ex- "change our money for bread. How little, therefore, have we to fear, let "the ſeaſons be as unfavourable as they may?" Thus the people reaſoned: but to their reaſoning the year 1782 gave the lie direct. The coldneſs and ſtorminess of ſummer 1782 excited fears in the minds of the diſcerning; but none ſuſpected the magnitude of the impending evil. On the 5th of October, when oats and barley were generally green, a froſt, armed almoſt with the rigour of a Greenland climate, deſolated in one night the hope of the huſbandman. The grain, immediately contracting a hoary whiteneſs, ripened no more. The potatoe and turnip, dwarfiſh from the ſeverity of the preceding ſeaſon, were extremely damaged. The produce of the garden was deſtitute of its uſual nouriſhment. The fields yielded not one-third of an ordinary crop. Oatmeal, dark in colour, was acid and diſagreeable to the taſte. No market appeared whereat we could ſupply our urgent wants. Complete and hopeleſs ruin ſtared us in the face; and all ranks indulged the views of gloomy deſpondence. If, at this critical period, the American war had not ceaſed,—

if

and bounded on three sides by the sea, most situations admit not the culture of trees; and but few, extremely well sheltered, are found to bring them to maturity. Proprietors of land are doing a good deal in the planting line; and the Scotch fir, the pine, the larix, the ash, the elm, the plane, and the lime, hold the chief rank in their plantations. But though trees have long ceased to be a spontaneous production, and though they require the utmost attention in rearing, yet the mosses abound with large logs of fir, and of venerable oak.

When improvement commenced, the number of sheep diminished. A taste for them, however, begins to revive, and there are now in the parish above 1300; of which 200 are annually

if the copious magazines, particularly of pease, provided for the navy, had not been brought to sale,—what a dire scene of desolation and horror would have been exhibited in this country!—From these magazines, the exertion of heritors and people derived regular supplies. Cattle sold extremely well. By the divine blessing, health in an eminent degree prevailed. The efforts of industry were redoubled. Many a precious hoard of gold and silver was unlocked; and temperance, stern, but friendly, established her reign on the solid base of necessity. Though oatmeal, therefore, sold from 18s. to 22s. per boll, and pease-meal from 16s. to 18s. yet the essentials of life, though sparingly, were provided, so that not one victim of famine fell in this parish. At this gloomy period, charity was awake: The minister of Montquhitter received, under cover from an unknown hand, L. 20 sterling for the benefit of the poor. The coat of arms on the seal was justly inscribed with this motto, "*Justi ut sidera fulgent.*"

It deserves notice, that the crops from 1783 were greatly blasted by bad seed: The seed, which was purchased from these early spots of inland country, where the oat was almost, if not altogether, ripened before the 5th of October 1782, generally failed; whereas the seed of this parish, which, on that fatal day, was scarce advanced beyond a watery or fluid milky substance, but which the necessities of some obliged them to adventure, laid the foundation of a tolerable crop. The reason seems to have been, that the germ of all the grain, nearly ripened, was materially injured, unless where the rigour of that memorable frost was softened by the vicinity of the sea.

nually ſold. The number of black-cattle exceeds 1350; of which the drover annually purchaſes 300.—290 horſes are employed in farming buſineſs, whereof not above one-half are reared in the pariſh, the market furniſhing the reſt. The farmers commonly employ 263 carts and 85 ploughs; and the ploughs are generally of the light Scotch, or common Engliſh kind.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.——Peat is the fuel made uſe of in the pariſh, and of it there is great abundance, and of the beſt quality. It is to be regretted, however, that much time and labour are loſt in providing this neceſſary of life. Genteel families begin to uſe coal in their rooms, a practice which would profitably prevail if the impolitic duty on coal was aboliſhed.——The roads, tolerably good, were originally formed, and are ſtill repaired by ſtatute labour, which may be converted at the rate of 1s. 6d. *per annum.* The rivulets are paſſable at all ſeaſons, by means of bridges, erected at the expence of the pariſh or diſtrict. As there is no poſt road, the expence of turnpikes would be uſeleſs and intolerable.——The names of all the farms, that have not been anglified to ſuit with modern ſubdiviſions, evidently originate from the Celtic:—— *e. g. Montquhitter*, or, the Place for enſnaring the Deer; *Auchry*, the Red or the King's Haugh; *Balthangie*, Anguſtown, &c.

The wild heath ſeems to wave over the grave of many a long forgotten hero, on theſe fields where contending barons tried the keenneſs of their ſwords. Some of the Covenanters, cut off by the Ogilvies, have given a name (*e. g.* Findlay's Mire) to theſe ſpots where they fell. And ſome heads of ſpears, of a yellow colour, and of the form moſt approved when the Scottiſh ſpear was almoſt as tremendous a

weapon

weapon as the Engliſh bow, were lately found in an exhauſted moſs, and are now in the poſſeſſion of Mr Cumine of Auchry.——The only battle of conſequence that diſtinguiſhes this pariſh, ſeems to have been fought at Lendrum. Tradition (in this inſtance pretty diſtinct) relates that Donald of the Iſles, ſuppoſed to be Donald Bane, brother to Malcom Canmore, fought at Lendrum for three days againſt the forces of the North, commanded by the potent Thane of Buchan, whoſe principal inland reſidence was at Caſtletown, King Edward pariſh, about 4 miles diſtant from the bloody ſcene. The battle of firſt day was fought about a mile to the eaſt of Lendrum, where a number of ſmall tumuli mark the graves of the ſlain; and from whence, Donald was beat back to the camp, the ſituation of which, called Donald's fold, is ſtill ſhown. The battle of the ſecond day was fought hard by the camp of Donald; and there, more than an acre of land is crowded with large tumuli. The third, and deciſive battle, was fought to the weſt of Lendrum, upon a field of more than 6 acres, which tradition covers with gore. The Thane of Buchan, at the head no doubt of the Canmore faction, prevailed; and the uſurper Donald, after loſing moſt of his forces, was obliged to fly.——In the beginning of the preſent century, a tenant found in ſome of theſe tumuli, ſome pieces of iron, which his greedy ſpirit converted to uſe. The preſent tenant broke up ſome of them, but found nothing that deſerves notice.——Perhaps it may be amuſing to trace the influence, which ſuperſtition ſtill has on many minds, and to mark how much ſome prophecies tend to their own completion.—The corn growing on the bloody butts of Lendrum has never been reaped without blood or ſtrife among the reapers. This circumſtance, aſſerted by tradition, and confirmed by the living evidence of two reſpectable men, who

have

have rented that farm for more than half a century paſt, may be eaſily accounted for by the trepidation, or the *furor*, which, according to the reſpective conſtitutions of the reapers, is inſpired by this awful ſcene.

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF TYRIE.

(PRESBYTERY OF DEER, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM FRASER.

Name, Extent, &c.

TYRIE, the antient and modern name of this pariſh, ſignifies in the Celtic language, the King's Houſe. This name, perhaps, is derived from a religious houſe, that (as tradition gives out) once ſtood upon the ground which the manſe now occupies, and was well endowed by royal munificence. ——It is about 7 computed miles long, and 3 broad, and formerly was much more extenſive.——The form is not unlike a boot; but the leg is rather long, in proportion to the foot.— The ſurface is very agreeably diverſified with hill and dale, heath, moſs, meadows, corn and graſs fields, running ſtreams, and incloſures fenced with ſtone and turf walls.——Sir William Forbes of Pitſligo, Bart. has ſeveral incloſures, planted with fir, aſh, elms, &c. and Meſſrs. Forbes of Upper-Boyndlie, and Irvine of Boyndlie, have likewiſe ſome planting.—— The trees are generally thriving well, and after ſome years, will

will beautify the country, be of great value to the proprietors, and afford wood for building and husbandry.

Fevers and rheumatism are the most prevalent distempers, and are most common after wet harvests, when the corns are not got in in good condition. The latter is much attributed to the disuse of wearing flannel next the skin, and to the too great use of potatoes.

There are several excellent mineral springs, which are of considerable service in weaknesses of the stomach, when not drunk in too large quantities; and the Mourning Well, in the den of Boyndlie, is such a copious spring, as perhaps cannot be equalled in all the county. The water of Tyrie runs along the north end of the parish, over which a good stone bridge is built.——The Goner, another considerable, and, in many places, a beautiful, smooth-flowing rivulet, runs almost through the middle of the parish; over which an excellent stone bridge has lately been built at Tillenamolt, at the expence of Sir William Forbes the proprietor.——Here also, there is one of the most considerable, and best furnished water-mills in Buchan: and a fine road lately made through a deep and extensive moss, shews what a public-spirited landlord can do, for promoting the industry, prosperity, and happiness of the country. Both these rivulets produce very delicious trouts; and some, in the latter, are 13 inches long. —Though their numbers be now greatly diminished by the use of lime as a manure, and the steeping of flax in the adjoining pools, yet anglers still fish with tolerable success.

The soil, when not in the vicinity of moss, is, for the most part, of a fertile reddish colour, pretty deep in the vallies, but shallower as the ground rises to an eminence; and many hundred acres of ground, very capable of improvement, are still in their natural uncultivated state.——The air is open, and wholesome; unless in places that are low and marshy, or near

large pools of ſtagnating water; and the ſmoke of kelp-kilns, though very diſagreeable to thoſe who live in places nearer the ſea, is ſcarcely felt in this pariſh.

Statiſtical Table.

Number of ſouls in 1755,	596	Gardeners -	3
in 1771,	612	Butchers - -	3
in 1785,	715	Born in Ireland -	1
in 1790,	864	in the Highlands	14
Heritors, reſident,	2	in Murray -	2
——— non-reſident,	3	From Edinburgh -	1
Schoolmaſters -	2	Of the eſtabliſhed church	826
Students -	2	Seceders -	32
Farmers - -	42	Epiſcopalians -	4
Smaller farmers -	10	Papiſts - -	2
Subtenants -	110	Annual average of births	12
Manufacturers -	2	of marriages	4
Shopkeepers -	4	of deaths	18
Shoemakers -	5	Houſes inhabited -	207
Innkeeper - -	1	uninhabited	7
Blackſmiths -	4	Ploughs -	72
Millers - -	5	Men ſervants -	59
Carpenters - -	4	Women do. -	46
Taylors -	6	Cattle - -	680
Weavers -	18	Sheep - -	545
Sheriff officers -	2	Horſes -	120

The diſproportion betwixt the births and the deaths is owing, in ſome meaſure, to the plenty of moſs for fuel, which induces old people to come to, and reſide in the pariſh.

Villages and Manufactures.——A village is begun at New Pitſligo, which, if proper inducements be held out, may probably

bably in a few years, under the auſpices of its patriotic and benevolent landlord, rival the moſt flouriſhing villages in Buchan. Above L. 1000 ſterling has been expended upon a bleachfield, which is furniſhed with excellent machinery, and every neceſſary convenience. From 13,902 to 15,733 yards of cloth, and from 514 to 564 ſpindles of yarn, have been annually bleached here. The tackſman pays L. 30 *per ann.* for that field, is capable and attentive, but has no capital. A bleaching company, with a competent capital, might do great things. As new Pitſligo is about 5 miles from the parochial ſchool, a ſchoolmaſter is ſtationed there, with a ſalary of L. 6 from the Society for propagating Chriſtian knowledge, and L. 6 from Sir William Forbes. The weavers ſettled in this village acknowledge, that they can afford to weave a halfpenny per yard at leaſt, cheaper than the weavers in any of the towns.

Produce, Exports, Rent.—The pariſh can ſupply itſelf with meal, malt, butter, cheeſe, beef, mutton, lamb, poultry, potatoes, and other common vegetables.——The principal exports are meal, cattle, ſheep, hogs, butter, cheeſe, wool, potatoes, and fuel.——The land-rent, according to the moſt exact rental that can be obtained, amounts to L. 870 ſterling. Were the people encouraged to improve the uncultivated grounds, the rent to the proprietors might ariſe to a much greater amount. But the tenants muſt firſt be put in eaſy circumſtances, and have longer leaſes, before they can afford an adequate value for the lands they occupy*.

Stipend,

* The names of many places are ſaid to be derived from the Celtic, as *Tillenamolt*, the weather's pan; *Balnamoon*, the town in the moſs; *Cairnywhing*, the cairn of memory; *Boyndlie*, the whey of the milk; *Tarmair*, *Skilmanar*, *Cavoch*, *Knocky-darroch*, &c.

Stipend, Church, Poor.——The living, including the glebe, is about L. 78 sterling. Lord Saltoun is patron.——There is no date upon the church, nor has the age of it been found in any record. It is supposed to have been built about the year 1004, when the Thane of Buchan routed the Danish army upon the neighbouring hills; which, from a chieftain who was killed, still retain the name of Sinclair. It was built (as tradition says) for a chapel to the religious house which once stood in its vicinity, and had an aisle joined to it when it became a parish church. This church was formerly well known by the name of *The White Kirk of Buchan*; and a celebrated modern historian (Dr Henry) mentions, that a queen once proposed to visit this sacred edifice. The oldest date legible upon any of the antient pews, is 1596. The old walls are built with run-lime, which, by reason of its age, is now liker ashes than lime. The west end was rebuilt in the year 1710, and the east end was repaired in 1773. A few aged trees, near the church, make an agreeable appearance *.

The poor's funds are made up of the money collected on the Lord's days, and at the Sacrament, with sometimes a small fine for fornication. The money so collected, amounts annually to about L. 13 sterling, unless in the late years of scarcity; and the money distributed annually, amounts to about L. 12 sterling. In the years 1782, 1783, and 1784, the collections were L. 15 sterling less than the sums distributed. This deficiency, and a few bad debts, reduced the stock from L. 60

* There are many tumuli in this parish and neighbourhood. Some have been opened, and found to contain coffins of gray flag-stones, set on their edges, sides, and ends, and covered above with the same sort of stones. In these coffins were human bones. The ground was a little raised, with a mixture of earth, and small stones. Upon what occasion people were buried there, in that manner, is not known.

L. 60 to leſs than L. 40 ſterling. The number of poor on the roll in 1783, was from 28 to 34; the number preſently on the roll is 15; of which 3 are natives, 5 have reſided for ſome years, and 7 for a few years. The number has never been ſo ſmall ſince 1781, and the ſtock, by ſaving in good years, has got up to about L. 50 ſterling. Moſt of the above 15 have been reduced to poverty by old age and diſtempers. Three diſtributions are made in the year; and ſome paupers receive almoſt every week, according to their neceſſities.——Sir William Forbes cauſes meal be given weekly from his granary, *gratis*, to every poor perſon in his eſtate, which enables the church-ſeſſion to beſtow more on thoſe in the other eſtates; and there is only one common beggar in the pariſh, who, being of a wandering diſpoſition, will not ſtay at his home. The ſuperabundance of fine fuel induces old infirm people to take up their reſidence near the moſſes. In a few years the poor's box muſt maintain them, and pay nurſes to take care of them, and when they die muſt defray the expence of their interments. When a perſon is put upon the poor's roll, and expoſed in the number of paupers, he often loſes the ſenſe of ſhame, becomes mean-ſpirited, greedy, and the companion of mendicants. A diſcretionary power ſhould be given to ſome proper perſon in every pariſh, to beſtow charity, in ſuch a private manner, as never to be heard of *.

Improvements.

* The antient price of 1 lb. of beef was from 1d. to 1d. halfpenny; the preſent, from 2d. halfpenny to 4d. Veal, mutton, lamb, pork, are much about the ſame price. The price of a hen, about 40 years ago, was from 2d. halfpenny to 4d. the preſent, from 6d. to 8d. The price of 14 eggs was 1d. the preſent price is from 3d. to 4d. for 12 eggs. Butter was, about 40 years ago, from 2d. halfpenny to 3d. halfpenny per lb. of 20 ounces Dutch weight: it now gives from 6d. to 7d. Barley meal is from 5d. to 7d. per peck; oatmeal from 7d. to 10d. flour from 14d. to 18d. per peck.——A man-ſervant's wages,

Improvements.—— About 40 years ago, a great part of the lands in this parish lay in their natural uncultivated state, and such of them as were in culture produced poor starved crops. The tenants were in poor circumstances, the rents low, the farm houses contemptible. The communication from place to place was along paths which were to be known by the footsteps of beasts that passed through them. No turnips, potatoes, or cabbages, unless a few of the latter in some gardens; and a great degree of poverty, indolence, and meanness of spirit, among the great body of the people. The appearance of the people, and their mode of thinking and acting, were but mean and indelicate; their peats were brought home in creels; the few things the farmer had to sell were carried to market upon the backs of horses; and their dunghills were hard by their doors. What has been done for promoting the industry, prosperity, and happiness of this parish and neighbourhood, must reflect great honour to the memory of the late Alexander Fraser of Strichen, one of the senators of the College of Justice. He first introduced improvements; gave lime to his tenants, *gratis*, and, in spite of their prejudices, prevailed with them to use it as a manure; brought skilful men from the south country, who taught them how to sow grass seeds, and raise turnips, cabbages, and potatoes in the fields. He gave them leases, during their lives, at a reasonable rate; and did not think his interest hurt when he saw his tenants enjoying the

wages, about 40 years ago, were about L. 2 or L. 2 : 5 sterling *per annum*, now from L.5:10 to L.6 sterling *per annum*. A woman servant's were then L.1 or L.1:1 sterling; now from L. 2 : 2 to L. 2 : 5 *per annum*. A day-labourer then got 6d. per day, now 9d. and when cutting corn or hay, from 1s. to 1s. 4d.—a woman in corn or hay harvest, or peat mire, 10d. a mason, from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per day; a carpenter, 1s. and a taylor, 8d. Handycraftsmen are all well employed; and day-labourers are in so great request, that turnip fields are sometimes in danger of being lost for want of hoeing in due season.

the comforts of life; nor did he treat them like cattle, as occaſions offered. The good effects of theſe encouragements are, extenſive fields regularly laid out, fine ſtone fences, good houſes built with ſtone and lime, excellent crops of turnips, ſown graſs, and almoſt all ſorts of grain, ſtocks of cattle, full corn yards, and every where the appearance of plenty. Hay, formerly unknown, is now plenty. Commerce and manufactures begin to thrive; much money is brought into the pariſh for yarn and linen, made out of flax raiſed in it; and all ranks of people are more induſtrious and more healthy than formerly.——Providence hath raiſed up another friend to the people, and encourager of improvements, in Sir William Forbes. To ſee what improvements can do, look at his farm of Tillenamolt; there may be ſeen good crops of ſown graſs, grain, and turnip, upon about 30 or 40 acres of moor, formerly not worth 2d. the acre. Is it not deplorable, that many hundred acres in this pariſh ſhould produce nothing but heath, not from barrenneſs, but from indolence? that waſte land of a good quality ſhould abound in many places, which ſome ſkill and proper induſtry would fertilize?

Miſcellaneous Remarks.——Several young men, at different periods, have become ſailors and ſoldiers. Some, encouraged by people about Glaſgow, have migrated to North America, where they have ſettled, and ſent home money to their aged parents. By comparing (in their letters) their preſent with their former condition in this country, they have done much to excite others to follow their example. Such examples, and ſome late publications, may do much hurt, unleſs ſeaſonably prevented. America is repreſented to be a wholeſome and pleaſant country, where the people, enjoying the rights of freemen, have a vote in the election of their legiſlators, paſtors, and magiſtrates: a country provided by divine

providence, to afford a comfortable habitation to those who are ill used at home; where the land is good in its quality, cheap, and gratuitously bestowed; and the passage to it unexpensive, and made in a few weeks. As migration is begun in this lowland country, something should be done to put a stop to its progress: something more effectual than giving premiums to pipers!

A great national fund may be raised for patriotic purposes, without making heritors one farthing poorer. Let the money be so applied that is thrown away upon cards, plays, race-horses, hounds, balls, and concerts; and thousands yet unborn may have reason to bless them; great fortunes may be provided for their posterity; and, when talents are to be accounted for, they may be better enabled to give in their accounts with a good grace.

The subtenants are not contented with their situation and circumstances. A householder, who can be removed on six weeks warning, and does not know where to find another house, as frequently happens, is really in a disagreeable situation. The subtenants must work three days annually to the proprietor of the estate, who likewise exacts one hen from every householder. These days still retain the slavish name of *bondage days*. The husbands must serve their masters in moss and harvest time, while their own corns are cut down by their wives; and they must at no time work to other people if their masters have any service for them. By this treatment, they are dispirited and deterred from improving their grounds; and young men are discouraged from marrying.——Sir William Forbes has made the subtenants in his estate independent on their former masters; and another heritor, for some years past, has not exacted their bondage work.——The condition of the people may be meliorated by the following means:—1st, By increasing the number of farms. As opulent farmers

often

often exert themſelves to get other farms annexed to their own, there is ſome cauſe to fear the misfortune which Pliny complained of, when he ſays, that large farms had ruined Italy, and now even the provinces. The antients laid it down as a maxim, that the ſize of farms ſhould be particularly attended to, ſeeing that it is moſt adviſeable to ſow little and plough well.—A barren ſpot, on which induſtry is excited by means within the reach of many, will ſoon be cultivated by the conſtant labours of the many. As on large farms few of the ſervants are in ſuch eaſy circumſtances as to be induced to marry, a want of hands muſt be ſoon felt; and this want is at the preſent time ſeverely felt in this part of the country. Small farms being within the reach of many, are a temptation to many to ſettle, to encreaſe and multiply. If conſiderable owners of land could be induced to divide large farms among a number of induſtrious huſbandmen, the waſte lands would be improved, the rents greatly augmented, and the number of induſtrious people greatly increaſed. A diviſion of large farms is very practicable in this pariſh, becauſe it contains ſuch large moſſes as never could be exhauſted, great quantities of very improveable ground, and has plenty of good lime in its neighbourhood. 2d, By rearing up chearful villages, and giving advantageous feus to manufacturers.——A noble mind will find unſpeakable pleaſure to obſerve many hundreds of free induſtrious people thriving and happy, every one in his own houſe; and to act ſuch a part on the ſtage of life, as that the two following lines of Virgil might, without much impropriety, be inſcribed on his graveſtone:

Vixi, et quem dederat curſum fortuna peregi;
Urbem præclaram ſtatui; mea mœnia vidi.

Such a one would be happier in this than in having ſigned an entail of a vaſt eſtate, though abſolutely aſſured of legitimate and undegenerate heirs.——This pariſh contains many ſpots

of ground that would be excellent ſites of chearful villages. They have not only all the above mentioned conveniences, but alſo abundance of fine moorſtones for building, and are not far diſtant from ſea-ports. Upon the whole, however, the pariſh of Tyrie, upon account of its ſituation, extent, and natural advantages, may, in proceſs of time, become one of the moſt populous and conſiderable pariſhes in Buchan.

NUMBER

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF DULL.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. ARCHIBALD MENZIES.

Name, Extent, &c.

DULL, or Dail, in the Celtic language, (which is uniformly ſpoken here), ſignifies a haugh or plain, and this name appears to have been aſſumed to the pariſh from the local ſituation of the haugh or plain of Appin, in which the church ſtands. The extent of the pariſh is very conſiderable, and its form is very irregular. Indeed there is this peculiarity in all the pariſhes in the braes of Perthſhire, that they are interſected with one another in ſuch a manner that one cannot deſcribe their exact form. The length of Dull, from S. to N. is 30 miles, and its breath 12. It is divided into five diſtricts. 1. The diſtrict of Appin, in which the pariſh church ſtands. 2. The diſtrict of Grandtully, where there is a chapel, in which the miniſter preaches occaſionally, 6 miles from his church. 3. The diſtrict of Amulrie, 12 miles diſtant from Appin, in which is a miſſionary ſupported by the committee for managing the royal bounty. 4. The diſtrict of Foſs, 8

miles

miles from the church; here is a chapel in which the missionary of Rannoch preaches every third Sunday. And, 5. The district of Fincastle, 15 miles from Appin, to which the minister travels across very high hills three or four times a year.

There are various kinds of soil, as may be reasonably expected, in such an extensive tract of country. The division of Appin is flat: part of the soil is thick, but by much the greater part is thin and gravellish. It seems that the river Tay had occasionally altered its bed, and consequently carried away the earth, and left much sand and gravel. There is a great deal of hill, but the greater part of the parish is a corn country. In the higher tracts the arable ground is exceeding good, and yields great crops, although they are seldom fertile, being very late in ripening In this district the grain is of an excellent quality; and, in general, harvest here is as early as it is in Mid Lothian.

Lakes, Rivers, &c.—There are no less than 15 lakes in the parish. In all of them are to be found pike, trout, and eel. Pike, which weighed upwards of 30 lbs. have frequently been caught in Loch-Tumble. There are several rivers, but none of them considerable, except the Tay and the Tumble. The salmon of the former is of an excellent quality; and the little of it which is sold in the county sells at 6d. per lb. during the spring season, and about 3d. in summer: little, however, is sold in the parish, as the salmon are chiefly sent to Perth, and from thence conveyed to the London Market.——The banks of the Tay have a great tendency to oak-wood. There are also very large birch trees in the parish.

Horses, Cows, and Sheep.—There are 1500 horses, 5000 cows, and 24,000 sheep in the parish. Little care has been hitherto taken to improve the wool, the particular attention of proprietors

proprietors and farmers having been directed to increaſe the ſize of the ſheep. White wool ſells at 7s. 6d. and wool laid with tar, at 5s. or 5s. 6d. per ſtone.

Population and Diſtempers.——It would ſeem that this pariſh was more populous about 50 years ago than it is at preſent. The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 4897 ſouls*: the number of inhabitants, as appears from an exact liſt of them, recently taken, now amounts to 4676. The reaſons for the decreaſe appear to be, that ſome of the proprietors have extended their own farms, and that it was conſidered more beneficial for the farmers, that there ſhould be no farm leſs than a ploughgate. In this part of the country it was uſual to halve, and even to quarter a ſmall farm, ſo that, perhaps, three or four families lived where only one now lives. In the higher parts of the country, ſheep farms have alſo been united.—The annual average of births, for 10 years back, amounts to 80; but as many of the children, in the more remote parts of the pariſh, are baptiſed by the itinerant miniſters, there is reaſon to ſuſpect that many names are never inſerted in the parochial records. The average number of marriages is 40: number of burials cannot be aſcertained, as there is a burial place in each diſtrict; no regiſter of burials is kept.——There is 1 ſurgeon, and 1 family of Roman Catholics in the pariſh—Rheumatiſm and pleuriſies are the moſt prevalent diſtempers: they ſeem to proceed from the dampneſs of their houſes, which in general are very bad. Inoculation for the ſmall-pox has been very common in this diſtrict, and its good effects are clearly ſeen.

Rent, Produce, &c.——The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4898 : 3 Scotch: the real rent is at leaſt L. 4500 ſterling. The

* According to another report, the number in 1755 was 5748 ſouls.

The rent of lands, in the lower parts of the pariſh, is from 10s. to 15s. per acre: the hill grounds, in general, are given in addition. But, in the higher part of the country, where much attention is paid to ſheep, a farm is rented by the lump. —There are 17 heritors in the pariſh, of which number only 6 conſtantly reſide in it.

The principal crops are, oats, Cheſter-bear, peaſe, and potatoes. Much attention is paid to the raiſing of the latter: the inhabitants ſubſiſt on them about 9 months in the year; and not a little is employed in feeding cows, horſes, and ſwine. To this valuable root, and to the raiſing of flax, this country is particularly indebted. In general, all the farmers here raiſe and ſpin what flax is ſufficient to pay their money rents, beſides all their other ſmaller accounts. There is probably 3000 ſtone of flax annually raiſed in the pariſh. Turnips ſucceed well here; and, within theſe few years, conſiderable progreſs has been made in uſing them. With a few exceptions, almoſt every farmer, in the Appin diſtrict of the pariſh, allots a ſmall portion of his land to them: to this they are chiefly led by finding that graſs ſeeds thrive better after them than by any other preparation of the ground. The common way is to ſow them in drills, although it has alſo been found, that they anſwer very well, in the broad caſt method, for feeding ſheep. Some experiments have been made in this neighbourhood to paſture lambs upon them, during the months of October and November, as a preſervative againſt the diſeaſe called the Braxy. It is uncertain whether the deſired object is attained by turnips, but this much is certain, that great advantage is gained by it. Oats are ſown from the 10th of April to the beginning of May; and bear from the 15th of May to the 9th of June.

The price of grain is various. The average converſion is about 15s. the boll, Linlithgow meaſure. What grain can be

ſpared

ſpared has a ready market among the inhabitants of the hill country.

Fuel.——There is a great ſcarcity of fuel here. Peats are bad, ſcarce, and at a great diſtance. No trials for coal have yet been made in the pariſh. It is much to be wiſhed, that ſome exertions were uſed to diſcover whether coals can be found in this part. If the experiments prove ſucceſsful, it would be a rich treaſure to the proprietors, and a vaſt advantage to the country at large *.

Eccleſiaſtical State, School, Poor.——The money ſtipend is L. 30 : 5 : 4. The victual ſtipend, 67 bolls and 3 firlots, Linlithgow meaſure. Of this laſt, 32 bolls are payable half oatmeal, half barley; and the remainder is paid from the priory of St Andrews, 50 miles diſtant. The glebe conſiſts of 11 acres. The king is patron.——It would be improper here, to paſs over in ſilence, the praiſe which is due to the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge. In this pariſh, 4 of their ſchools are eſtabliſhed; and here their labour has not been in vain. At theſe ſchools, about 400 children are taught to read, write, and underſtand the common rules of arithmetic. Much attention is paid to their religious inſtruction; and every violation of moral rectitude is puniſhed with the utmoſt ſeverity. By theſe means, good principles are inſtilled into the minds of the children in their infant years. To this lau-

* The price of labour has riſen much within theſe few years. Farm ſervants eat in the houſe. The wages allowed a man who can plow, ſow, &c. is L. 6 ſterling, together with ſhoes and clothes: he is allowed 4 pair of ſingle ſhoes, commonly called *Brogues*, 2 pair of hoſe, 4 yards of tartan for a phellibeg, and a ſhort coat and veſt of ſome coarſe kind of cloth. A woman receives L. 3 ſterling for the year.

dable and pious institution, the rapid progress of improvement in the Highlands may in a great measure be attributed. There is also a school, supported by the heritors, at the village of Dull, at which about 100 children are taught. Such as chuse, may there receive the benefit of classical learning: hitherto it has been superintended by men who received a liberal education; but, as the salary is only L. 80 Scotch, and the perquisites and school fees very low, it is to be feared that young men of this description will not consider it as an object worth their attention.

The number of poor upon the roll, in the whole parish, is 40. What money is expended for their support is collected in the church on Sundays, which annually amounts to L. 24, or thereabouts. Particular attention is paid only to the case of such as are bed-rid. All who are able to go about to ask charity, receive very little from the parochial funds. It must be confessed, that hitherto this part of our constitution has not been sufficiently attended to. If this, however, and the neighbouring parishes, were to support their own poor, there is good reason to think, that both parties would be gainers by it: the poor would be better provided for; and the country would not be infested by so many sturdy beggars as pour in upon it from the north, during the months of June, July, and August.

Miscellaneous Remarks.—The roads, upon the whole, are in tolerable good order. Of late, a great deal has been done to improve them, and much still remains to perform. The king's road between Stirling and Inverness passes through this parish. There are no turnpikes. The country roads are made and kept in repair by the statute work, exacted in kind: but it is to be wished that this mode were altered, and that the occupiers of land were assessed in a moderate sum of money. By

laying

laying out this money judiciouſly, the work would be better done, earlier in the ſeaſon, and to a far greater extent *.

The people are ſober, regular, and induſtrious: they are lively, chearful, and given to hoſpitality. Crimes are daily becoming more rare. Groſs offenders are held in great diſgrace. A notorious drunkard is deſpiſed in the higheſt degree. The people enjoy, in a reaſonable degree, the comforts and conveniencies of life; and, in general, appear happy and contented with their condition. Their condition, however, might be meliorated if proprietors would grant them leaſes of their farms. All of them are tenants that may be removed at the proprietors will. It has been ſaid, that they would become indolent if leaſes were granted to them; but experience ſhews that this objection is ill-founded.

* There are many Druidical temples in the pariſh. A very great number of old caſtles, many of them like watch towers. There is in one glen no leſs than the ruins of 15 of them. It is called Fincaſtle, or *Fonnchaiſteal*, the Land of Caſtles.

All the names of places are apparently Celtic. Kynnachan, this place is cloſe by the old foreſt of Shichallin; here the gentlemen were in uſe to aſſemble for the chaſe, and to uncouple their hounds; hence, the etymology appears to be *Coinneamh nan con*, "the meeting of Dogs." *Shierglaſs*, "always running clear," from the rapidity of the river Garrie, which flows cloſe by it. *Duntaulich*, "the caſtle of Tumble."

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF HUMBIE.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

By the Rev. MR. HENRY SANGSTER.

Name and Extent.

THIS parish was formed, soon after the Reformation, by the junction of the parishes of Keith and Humbie. In the end of the last century, the parish of Keith was called Keith Symmons, and that of Humbie, Keith Hundeley. The origin of the name of Humbie, which they bear since their annexation, is unknown; and has probably arisen, as in other cases, from some frivolous circumstance.——It is nearly in the form of a square of 6 miles, but is intersected by the parish of Fala.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 570 souls; at present, there are 676 in this parish. From the register of births, taking at an average of 10 years, at any period, it appears that the population has not decreased during the last 60 years. In a district like this, where the sole occupation of the inhabitants has always been agriculture, the numbers must be

be nearly ſtationary. Indeed the improvement of 2 horſes inſtead of 4 in a plough, which was introduced in the year 1768, evidently leſſened the number of farm ſervants; but this effect of it ſeems to have been counteracted, by the additional work occaſioned by the preferable modes of agriculture, and particularly that of raiſing turnips, which commenced exactly at the ſame period: for upon one large farm, on which about 100 acres of turnips are raiſed annually, the numbers are encreaſed, and more ſtill could find employment.

There are 7 heritors, 4 of whom reſide: 10 farmers; 1 innkeeper: 3 weavers; 5 ſmiths; 4 carpenters; 4 taylors; 1 baker; 1 ſhoemaker; 1 dyer. The other inhabitants are employed in the different operations of huſbandry.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.——The high grounds, lying between Soutrahill and Lammerlaw, are adapted for the paſture of the common Scotch ſheep. Attempts have been made to raiſe crops of corn upon ſome parts of them, where the ſoil is naturally good; but, though ſkill and induſtry have occaſionally ſucceeded, the expence, expoſure, and climate, point out the paſturing of them to be the moſt profitable ſyſtem.—The ſoil of the pariſh, in general, is various: in ſome parts, a thin wet clay; in others, moſſy. A great deal of it, however, is fit for raiſing turnips or grain; and, wherever it is favourable for theſe crops, it is cultivated generally with great attention and ability. The favourite rotation of crops is, turnips, barley or oats, clover, oats, which is certainly the beſt that is at preſent in practice; though, were the climate earlier, an improvement might be made upon it by introducing wheat after turnips. Several thouſand bolls of oats, and ſome hundred bolls of wheat and barley, are ſent annually to market. Great attention has been given to the rearing of ſheep, and the ſucceſs has been proportional. It is from this pariſh

that

that the Edinburgh market has, of late years, been supplied with the first early lambs; one farmer having sent to it annually 100, at a guinea each. The ewes from which they are obtained are of the Cowley breed. They are kept till they are old, and are well fed through the year. By a similar management, lambs may be had as early as they are wanted, and, perhaps, from any breed of sheep; but it will be necessary, for that purpose, that the ewes and lambs be kept as warm as possible in a house or shed, the ewes being fed with turnips and with oats daily, at the rate of a peck to 20 of them. This method of obtaining early lambs is reckoned preferable to that which, it is said, is followed in the south of Scotland, of heating the ewes in a barn, or any inclosed place.

Only 3 farmers in this parish are subjected, by their leases, to pay kain-fowls. Thirlage carriages and kain were in use 16 years ago: but the present tenants, when offering for their farms, insisted for an exemption from them; and, as they allowed more in their proposals than an equivalent for it, the alteration has been attended with no loss to the proprietors, and allows the tenants to proceed in their operations without being exposed to the hurtful consequences arising from capricious or ill-timed interruptions.

So late as the year 1770, a farm of the rent of L. 70 was reckoned a large one; now, one at the rent of L. 100 is not deemed sufficient for a farmer to live upon. From L. 300 to L. 500 of rent, is reckoned a moderate size. Should this speculation be progressive, of which there is great appearance at present, the consequences are perhaps not uncertain. It cannot be hurtful to the condition of the lowest class of people, or, consequently, to population; and proprietors will receive a great encrease of rent, while the farmers, who have skill and spirit for such increased undertakings, will be as amply rewarded. But, by this melioration of their estates, for such they

they ſeem to think it, by throwing corn farms into the ſize of L. 1000 a year, or upwards, proprietors will annihilate, in a great meaſure, the claſs of farmers; and may find it difficult, at no diſtant day, to get perſons poſſeſſed of ſtock and abilities for ſuch undertakings, as too great a reduction of the number of farmers muſt operate as powerfully, as the diminutive ſize of farms, againſt a ſpirit of emulation and improvement.

Roads, Changes of Property, Woods, &c.—Before the year 1770, the roads were ſo bad, that in many places they were impaſſable in winter; and, at no ſeaſon of the year, could more than 5 bolls of grain be ſent to market upon a two horſe cart. But, in conſequence of an Act of Parliament, for the county, levying 20s. from every ploughgate of land, they are now in ſo good repair, that 10 bolls are the common load. They were made more eaſily, however, that gravel was at no great diſtance, and the ſoil admitted of their being formed by the plough. For the purpoſe of keeping them in repair, the tenants, who have fields of ſown graſs in their neighbourhood, are allowed 2d. for each cart load of ſtones which they gather upon them, and are beſides paid for the carriage.

Property has fluctuated much in this pariſh of late. This has been the caſe with none more than the barony of Keith; which, together with Inch-Keith and other lands, were given, along with the office of Hereditary Great Mariſhal of Scotland, by King Malcolm, to one Robert, as a reward for killing, with his own hand, Camus the king and champion of the Danes, at the battle of Barry, in the year 1010. From theſe lands Robert took the ſirname of Keith, and they remained in the poſſeſſion of the family till they were ſold for the purpoſe of affording aid to General Leſlie.

Humbie wood conſiſts of about 300 acres of oak and birch; and, being contiguous to Salton wood, preſents a beautiful

object

object to a traveller, when the Lothians open to his view, from Soutrahill. There are some wood-cocks and pheasants in it. It is infested with that distemper, so pernicious to cattle, called the Wood-ill, or Muir-ill; the effects of which may, however, be certainly prevented by castor oil, or any other laxative. The grass glebe is not free from this distemper, though the natural wood, with which it was covered, has been rooted out more than 60 years ago.

This district is well situated with regard to markets for corn, being at the distance of 8 miles from Haddington, and of 9 miles from Dalkieth, the only ready money markets, Edinburgh excepted, in Scotland. The advantages of such markets are numerous; and, proprietors would essentially promote the interests of agriculture, if they would co-operate with the farmers in establishing them wherever it can be done *.

Rent.—The valued rent is L. 3991 : 3 : 4 Scotch: the real rent about L. 2700 sterling. The price of arable land is from 12s. to 30s. per acre. The practice of letting farms, by private

* The wages of servants, of all denominations, have encreased one-third during the last 20 years. Day-labourers receive 1s. Women, boys, and girls, when hoeing turnips, 6d. per day: a maid servant in the house, L. 3 yearly; a young man capable for managing horses, L. 6. The whole emoluments of a married farm servant amount to about L. 14; which, with the earnings of his wife, enable him to rear a family of 4 or 5 children; but, during this period, the whole family are very poorly fed indeed. The first relief he meets with is from the oldest of his children, who go as early as possible to service, and give him whatever they can spare for bringing up their younger brothers and sisters. In this way have numerous families been brought up, without the least aid from the public funds. When their filial exertions are no longer necessary, the young people turn their attention to dress. The higher class go along with the taste of times; and, to say their expences have been doubled within the last 20 years, is by no means to over-rate them.

vate offers, has been generally adopted in this parish; and, in some instances, needy and unskilful persons were preferred for a mere trifle, and soon became insolvent. This mode of letting farms to the person who offers most, provided he stocks his farm, and pays the first year's rent, is unfavourable to agriculture. The private interest of proprietors, and the good of the public, point out the amount of the rent to be an inferior consideration to the abilities of the tenant: for it is only in the hands of such persons, that the soil can be made productive; and from them alone, when in circumstances moderately easy, are improvements to be expected: nor can a more effectual check be given to industry and genius, than to put a farmer, who, by his attention and talents, has brought his farm to a high state of improvement, upon a level with an unknown adventurer, or to require from him, at the expiry of his lease, a rise of rent equal to the extent of his own melioration of the soil.

Minerals, Rivers, &c.—There seems to be abundance of iron-ore in many places; and there are appearances of coal. —There is a spring of martial acidulous water, which was much resorted to, 60 years ago, by people of fashion, for scorbutic disorders.

There are 3 brooks, Birns-water, Humbie-water, and Keith-water. In all of them there is plenty of trout, some of which are of a good flavour. There is a fall and a quantity of water upon them sufficient for machinery.

In the higher parts of the parish the air is sharp and cold; in the lower, it is more temperate. So heathful, upon the whole, is the climate, that epidemical distempers, when sometimes prevailing in neighbouring districts, seldom, and then but partially, affect the inhabitants of this. Rheumatism is the disorder with which the lowest class of people are distres-

sed, and in a degree not less, it is believed, than in any other part of Scotland. It is occasioned partly by the damp of their houses, though no district is better provided in wood and coal for feul; and partly, by their sleeping in the open air at mid-day, when their work is finished; and by sitting down to cool themselves when over-heated, instead of putting on their clothes, and keeping themselves in motion for a while *.

Miscellaneous Remarks.——There are 3 Seceders, and 1 Episcopal family.——The stipend received an augmentation in 1771, and is now worth about L. 90. The glebe is a poor one. There

* The vestiges of a Roman *Castellum Stativum* are still to be seen, upon the estate of Whiteburgh, in the S. W. part of the parish. It was of a circular form, and consisted of 3 walls, at the distance of 15 feet from each other, built with very large stones, and with cement only at the bottom. It occupied more than an acre of ground. No information can be got about the height of the walls; but the proprietor of the lands remembers that the parts of them which he has seen, were 16 feet thick. The whole work has been carried off at different times for building the present house and offices of Whiteburgh, and some farm houses upon the estate.—Near it were several tumuli, in which were urns full of bones or ashes. In the camp itself, were found a medal of Trajan, a fibula, a patera, and a horn of a moose deer.——In its near neighbourhood, but in other parishes, are 3 other encampments, situated in such a manner, as gives room to suppose, that the whole were intended to act in concert, and overlook the Lothians.———Perhaps the house of Keith, one of the seats of the Earl Marishal, though of no later date than 1590, may be mentioned on account of its hall, which surpassed any thing of the kind, and was suited to the splendor of a family at that time the most opulent and powerful in the kingdom. The house itself was of the form of a hollow square; and one entire side of it, 110 feet in extent, and 3 stories in height, was occupied as a hall. Succeeding proprietors have pulled it down. The timber with which the house was built, was a present from the King of Denmark, as an expression of the high opinion he conceived of the Earl, when employed to treat of the marriage of the Princess Anne of Denmark, with James VI.

There are 2 ſchools with the legal ſalary of 100 merks to each. The average number of ſcholars at both, is 60.

No perſon, having a reſidence in this pariſh, is permitted to beg in it, or to leave it for that purpoſe. The number of poor ſupported by the funds, ſeldom exceeds 15. The ſum expended yearly for their ſupport, and for caſual charities in the pariſh, is about L. 40; and is moſtly the intereſt of a capital, raiſed before the year 1750, by collections, when the whole heritors and their families regularly attended public worſhip. From 3s. to 4s. monthly is the allowance, at an average, to each penſioner *.

The inhabitants are induſtrious, and ſatisfied with their condition.—It is not in the recollection of the oldeſt perſon among them, that an inhabitant of this pariſh has been puniſhed for any crime. Dram-drinking, ſo prevalent in other parts of Scotland, is a vice utterly unknown, as might be expected from a people, among whom no manufacture has ever been eſtabliſhed, and whoſe ſole employment, that of a very few individuals excepted, is agriculture.

* In this, and ſome of the neighbouring diſtricts, many labourers, mechanics, and farm ſervants, who are in ſuch circumſtances that they could not, with much propriety, apply to their pariſh funds for a temporary relief, have formed themſelves into ſocieties, whoſe object it is to give aid to ſuch of their members as may be accidently in diſtreſs. Each member pays half a guinea at his admiſſion, and 1s. quarterly. The effects of theſe benevolent inſtitutions have already been extenſive and beneficial. They ſoon would be generally eſtabliſhed, if gentlemen of property would become members, and contribute a ſmall ſum annually; by which they would prevent applications, in many inſtances, to the public funds, and do a moſt acceptable office to numbers of perſons who are ſo neceſſary to ſociety; and are entitled, perhaps, to attention, on account of the diſpoſition they diſcover to give, what they can but ill afford, for the amiable purpoſe of protecting one another from the diſtreſſing and humiliating ſituation, of holding out their hand to receive public charity.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF KINROSS.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE, COUNTY OF KINROSS.)

By the Rev. Mr. Archibald Smith.

Name.

KIN-ROSS, in the Celtic, signifies the head of the peninsula; and it is said that the whole tract of country, lying betwixt the Tay and the Forth, had antiently the name of Ross, or the Peninsula.

Towns.——The town of Kinross, pleasantly situated in an extensive plain at the west end of Lochleven, upon the great road between Perth and Queensferry, at the distance of 15 miles from each, is the capital of the small county of the same name, and the seat of the Sheriff, Justice of Peace, and Baron Bailie Courts.

This town, it would appear, formerly consisted of 47 steadings, or tofts, as they are commonly called, as is evident from an agreement mutually entered into in 1708, for the division of a common, called the muirs of Kinross, to which each of them had an equal right. The inhabitants then derived

rived their fubfiftence chiefly from the produce of the town acres, grazing their cattle on the feveral commons belong to the place, and from the fifh of Lochleven.

The are 4 annual fairs in Kinrofs, reforted to by people from a confiderable diftance, efpecially dealers in black-cattle and horfes.

Within the laft 30 years, between 60 and 70 new houfes have been added to the town, affording accommodation for above double the number of families. The rents of houfes are from 30s. to L. 5 each, and that of the town acres, L. 3 per acre; each of thefe computed acres fell for between L. 80 and L. 100 fterling, though liable in payment of about 10s. yearly of feu duties, and of public burdens.——There are no houfes of any note in the parifh, excepting only that of Kinrofs, built by the celebrated architect Sir William Bruce, the proprietor, in 1685. It is a large elegant ftructure. The hall is 54½ feet long, by 24 feet wide. The old houfe, for fome generations the refidence of the Earls of Morton, fituated on the N. of the prefent garden, was taken down about the year 1723, but fome veftiges of the foundation are ftill difcernible.

Extent and Surface.——The extent of this parifh is about 3¾ miles in length, from N. to S. and nearly the fame at its greateft breadth. It is bounded by Lochleven on the eaft. As this diftrict lies in the middle of the plain of Kinrofs, the ground is moftly flat, and the foil various; a little of it is of ftrong clay, fome of a mixed quality, but by far the greateft part is a thin light black earth, with a gravelly bottom; yet even this laft appears capable of producing tolerably good crops, where improvements have been made.

Rivers and Lochs.——There are 3 fmall rivers in this parifh, viz. Gairney on the S. boundary, the South Quiech below

low the town, and North Quiech at the N. boundary. All theſe diſcharge themſelves into Lochleven; and are ſtored with ſmall trout, that afford fine amuſement to anglers.

Lochleven, a magnificent and beautiful piece of water, bounded by the hills called the Lomonds on the E. and Benarty on the S. and by the plain of Kinroſs on the N. and W. is about 12 miles in circumference, ſetting aſide the angular juttings, and 4 miles in length, from the W. end of the town to the E. at the Gulet bridge *. Several iſlands are diſperſed in this fine collection of water; the moſt remarkable is that diſtinguiſhed by the captivity of Queen Mary Stewart. The fiſh of the loch have been ſo well deſcribed by Pennant and others, that it ſeems unneceſſary to ſay much about them here. The following obſervations, however, may not be unworthy the attention of the curious. The high flavour and bright red colour of the trout, ſeem evidently to ariſe from the food which nature has provided for them, in the loch. A conſiderable part of the bottom is oozy and ſpongy, from which aquatic herbs ſpring up in abundance; and, ſo vigorous are they in many parts, as towards the beginning of autumn, to cover the ſurface with their flowers. The trout, eſpecially of ſize, lie much in that ſort of bottom. Gentlemen, accuſtomed to make obſervations when angling, know well, that even in clear running rivers, where their courſe takes a direction through a long tract of meadow, or of oozy ground, the trout that lie or feed in that ground, if of ſize, are generally leſs or more of a pink colour in the fleſh; while thoſe that feed in the ſtony or gravelly ſoil, above or below the ſwampy meadows, are all white, excepting the mixture that is ſometimes made by floods. But what appears to contribute moſt to the rednefs and rich taſte of the

* Theſe meaſurements were taken with a perambulator on the ice.

the Lochleven trout, is the vaft quantiy of a fmall fhell-fifh, red in its colour, which abounds all over the bottom of the loch, efpecially among the aquatic weeds. It is of fhape quite globular, precifely of the appearance and fize of a lintfeed boll at a little diftance, and the trouts when caught have often their ftomachs full of them. Thefe obfervations may account for a phenomenon of another kind. In Lochleven are all the different fpecies of hill, or burn, or muir trout, that are to be met with in Scotland, evidently appearing from the diverfity of manner in which they are fpotted. Yet all thefe different kinds, after being two years in the loch, and arriving at ¾ or 1 lb. weight, are red in the flefh, as all the trout of every kind in the loch are, except perhaps thofe newly brought down by floods, or fuch as are fickly. The filver-grey trout, with about 4 or 5 fpots on the middle of each fide, is apparently the original native of the loch, and, in many refpects, the fineft fifh of the whole. The fry of all kinds are white in the flefh till they come to the fize of a herring, about the beginning of their third year. The gallytrough, or char, abounds in the loch The defcription of this fifh is generally well known. What is remarkable of them is the fize to which they often grow, fome of them weighing near 2 lb. and they are never known to rife to a fly, or to be caught with a hook, baited in any way whatever. Befides thefe, are vaft numbers of eels, pikes, and perch, in the loch.—The fifh of Lochleven, only a few years ago, fold here at 1d. each, great and fmall, for the trout, and the perch at 1d. the dozen, and, about 25 years ago, at half that price: the fifhing was then let at 200 merks Scotch. The trout * are now raifed to 4d. per lb. the perch to 2d. per dozen;

* Thofe called Bill trout are believed to be old ones. In fpring 1791, a large one was caught that weighed 10 lb.—many of them weighed 8 lb.

dozen; and the pike * to 2d. per lb. The present rent of the fishing is L. 80 sterling, and for next year it is fixed at L. 100. —The birds that breed on the isles are, herons, gulls, pewit gulls, and great terns, called here pictarnes.

Population Table.

Persons above 7 years of age, in the town, in 1710 - -	476
In the country, ditto	472
Total - -	948
Number of souls in 1755	1310
——— ——— in 1791	1839
In the town and territory - -	1437
In the country -	402
Of the Established church	700
Annual average of births for 10 years past -	45
——— ——— of marriages - -	11
——— ——— of deaths	38
Watchmakers -	3
Blacksmiths -	5
Carpenters and glaziers	13
Taylors -	12
Shoemakers -	16
Stocking makers -	2
Stocking frames -	4
Flax dressers -	4
Dyers - -	3
Masons -	8
Tanners -	3
Saddlers - -	2
Butchers -	5
Bakers - -	3
Physician -	1
Surgeons -	2
Writers -	3
Messenger at arms	1
Corn mills - -	2
Barley mill - -	1
Lint mills -	2
Waulk mill -	1
Inns -	2
Inferior houses of entertainment - -	17
Post chaises for hire	7
Saddle horses, ditto	7

Manufactures.——The principal manufacture is that called Silesia

* In spring 1790, one was caught that weighed 31 lb. and 1-half

Silefia linens, woven from 27 to 30 inches in breadth, fome coarfe tweels, fome harns and ftraikens.

State of the Manufactures, as taken from the Stamp-mafter's Book in Kinrofs:

From 1ft Nov. 1780, to 1ft Nov.	1781	-	107,996½ yards.
	1782	-	85,936
	1783	-	79,084½
	1784	-	99,516
	1785	-	130,439
	1786	-	126,803
	1787	-	181,927¼
	1788	-	153,169
	1789	-	77,779
	1790	-	141,691½
			1,184,341½
	Medium		118,434 yards:

which, at 9d. per yard, at an average, is L. 4,441 : 5 : 6 *per annum.* About five-fixths of the whole is manufactured in this parifh, and the reft in other parts of the country: and, befides the above, a great deal of linen is woven for private ufe, as the people in general are very induftrious, and make all their cloth for fhirts, bed-linens, &c. of yarn fpun in their own houfes, moftly of flax raifed in the country.—The number of weaving looms, in this parifh, is about 200; of thefe, 18 are in the country part, and the reft in the town. Three or four are employed in weaving diaper work, for table linens, and about 50 at different branches of muflin manufacture for people in Glafgow.

Kinrofs enjoys feveral advantages in favour of the linen manufacture; fuch as, plenty of coals at 5 miles diftance; a fine ftream of foft water, running through the town, for boil-

ing and washing the yarn; and two pretty extensive commons for bleaching, the one along the side of Lochleven, and the other west of the town, supplied with water from the above-mentioned stream, and also abounding with plenty of springs.

The cutlery business, for which this place has been famous for a century past, has of late been much on the decline, owing to the general use of Sheffield wares. About 40 years ago, this branch employed between 20 and 30 hands; but the number is now reduced to 4 *.

Ecclesiastical

* About a mile west from Kinross, on the lands of Mawhill, is a small cairn, which, like many others in Scotland, is called the Leckar stones; another near Carsgour, known by the name of the Toryknow, was last year razed to the ground, but nothing discovered to gratify curiosity. A tumulus or mound, composed mostly of earth, with some stones intermixed, on the east of Annofreuch, was opened a few years ago, and a coffin found therein formed of rough flat stones, set on edge at the sides and ends, and a large one above; within which were some bones, and many pieces of burnt wood interspersed. In the memory of some old people, it was called the Elf-hillock, but it is now known by the name of the Fairyknow.

The most remarkable piece of antiquity is the castle of Lochleven, said to have been the antient seat of Congal, son of Dongart, King of the Picts, who is said to have founded it. It stands towards the N. W. part of the lake, on an island about an acre and three-quarters in extent, and is encompassed with a rampart of stone, nearly of a quadrangular form. The principal tower, a kind of square building, stands upon the N. wall, very near the N. W. corner, and there is a lesser round one at the S. E. The other apartments were arranged along the N. wall, between the great tower and the N. E corner. A kitchen, supposed to have been built later than the rest of the castle, stood on the W. wall, near the S. W. corner; and another building, supposed to have been the chapel, between that and the great tower fronting the S. In the lower part of the square tower is a dungeon with a well in it. Above the dungeon is a vaulted room, which, from the appearance of the effects of smoke on the jambs of the chimney, seems to have been used as a kitchen. Over this had been three stories. No date or inscription appears on any part of the buildings, excepting only the letters R. D. and M. E. (probably the initials of Sir Robert Douglas and Margaret Erskine, his lady), on the face of an

Ecclefiaftical State, School, and Poor.—This parifh has had its own fhare of divifions ever fince the year 1732. The number of fouls that belong to the Eftablifhed Church are about 700: the reft belong to three different denominations of Secefion, viz. the Burghers in this town, the Antiburghers, and a fmall meeting, who call themfelves of the Reformed Prefbytery, in the parifh of Orwel.——The living confifts of L. 536 : 8 : 4 Scotch, including 50 merks for communion elements, 68 bolls oat-meal, and 15 bolls bear. George Graham, Efq. of Kinrofs, is patron.

The fchool is, at prefent, in a very flourifhing ftate. The number of fcholars, during laft winter, was about 140; and, at a medium for 18 years paft, it has been above 100 yearly. Some of thefe come from other parifhes, befides a number of

an ornamented ftone, that a few years ago, when the walls were ftanding, projected a little at the N. E. corner of the kitchen. The whole circuit of the rampart is 585 feet.—It is generally underftood that the roof was taken off the caftle about a century ago. Some part of it, particularly the roof of the round tower, is faid to have been repaired by Sir William Bruce. Some perfons remember to have heard an old man fay, that, in his time, there were 52 beds, or perhaps only bed-fteads, in the caftle.

The ifland is ornamented with a number of trees, and affords pafture for 2 cows. In autumn 1775 or 1776, the area or court within the caftle, was ftored with well cultivated beds of onions, and the ground without, with turnips.

Alexander III. is faid to have lived fome time at Kinrofs, undoubtedly in the caftle of Lochleven, after returning from an interview with his father-in-law, Henry III. of England, at Werk caftle.—In this caftle Queen Mary Stuart was imprifoned, on the 16th June 1567; refigned the crown with reluctance in favours of her fon, James VI. on the 24th July, fame year; and efcaped from her confinement there, on the 2d of May 1568, by means of George Douglas, youngeft fon of Sir Robert Douglas of Lochleven.——The Earl of Northumberland was imprifoned in Lochleven caftle, from 1569 to about the end of 1572.

boarders in the master's house. The salary is L. 100 Scotch, with a good house and small garden, and about an acre and a half of land.

The number of indigent persons in this parish, who receive supply, cannot be exactly ascertained, as each of the different meetings dispose of their charity to the poor of their own communion; but as to the money arising from the parish funds, the most needy of every denomination are equally admitted to share. The management of them is under the direction of a committee of the heritors, who disburse about L. 14 annually. The collections at the church doors are disposed of by the kirk-session, to the poor under their immediate care, in proportion to their necessities: they also distribute to the poor of the secession in cases of distress, and particularly during the severity of winter. The money disbursed by them, last year, was about L. 20; so the whole sum annually distributed amounts to L. 34 sterling.——Besides the above, L. 100 Scotch is paid annually out of the estate of Kinross to 16 out-pensioners of an hospital, which, it seems, had been intended upon a particular spot of ground at Kinross, mortified, it is said, by Sir William Bruce.——There are few begging poor belonging to this parish; but, as Kinross is a thorough-fare, and the roads in every direction around the town exceeding good, it is constantly infested with numbers of beggars from all quarters.

Miscellaneous Remarks.——The valued rent of this parish is L. 4006 : 6 : 8 Scotch. The real rent cannot be easily ascertained, as most of the farms are feus possessed by the proprietors themselves.—— Improvements in agriculture have hitherto advanced but slowly in this district, owing in a great measure to the last mentioned circumstance, and also to the want of example. For as the feuars, in general, are in that happy mediocrity of station, in which, perhaps, the greatest contentmen

tentment is to be enjoyed, and poffefs all the neceffaries and many of the comforts of life, each, till of late, continued to purfue the courfe followed by their fathers and grandfathers: but now, that a different mode of living univerfally prevails, a fpirit of induftry and a tafte for improvement are roufed, and every one is endeavouring to make his farm turn to the beft account; and, in order to excite emulation among the fervants, a ploughing match was held in March laft, at Turf-hills, a little to the weft of this town, where prizes were adjudged to thofe who excelled, according to their merit; being the firft of the kind in this parifh.——The ploughs now ufed are for the moft part of an improved conftruction.—The principal crops are oats and barley. Confiderable attention has, of late, been paid to the cultivation of turnips; and potatoes are a general crop in every part of the parifh. Much flax is raifed both for the market and for private ufe; and great quantities of clover and rye-grafs are fown, on account of the demand for hay from the public inns, ftablers, horfe-hirers, and carters. Little or no wheat was raifed till of late, but it is now fown in different parts of the parifh.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIII.

UNITED PARISHES OF ARDCHATTAN AND MUCKAIRN.

(PRESBYTERY OF LORN, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

By the Rev. MR. LUDOVICK GRANT.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c.

THIS diſtrict conſiſts of two united pariſhes, Ardchattan and Muckairn, antiently called *Balliebhodan* and *Kiele-ſpickarrol*; the latter denoting the burying place of Biſhop Cerylus or Cerullus, and the former ſignifying St Bede's town or place of reſidence. The walls of a ſmall church, built by this ſaint, of excellent maſonry, ſtill remain entire, and have withſtood the ſtorms and tempeſts of ſeveral centuries.—— The pariſh extends 24 computed miles in length, and is 20 in breadth at an average. The ſurface is for the moſt part hilly and uneven, interſected with ſtreams of water, and diverſified with heights and hollows. The air is ſalubrious; the people in general remarkably healthy, and ſtrangers to the diſeaſes which ſpring from idleneſs and luxury. The different periods of longevity, to which many have attained, is a ſtrong preſumption in favour of the climate. A man died ſome years a-

go

go at the advanced age of 105; three men on the verge of 100, and a fourth turned of 100, are now living; and within these few years several of both sexes, from 80 to 90 years of age, have died in the full possession of all their mental faculties. This district is frequently visited by heavy rains, but the moisture is quickly absorbed by the earth, which is naturally dry.

Rivers, Hills, Woods, &c.—In the parish are several rivers, abounding with excellent trout; the most considerable are the Aw, the Kinloss, and the Etie. Near the mouth of the former is a valuable salmon fishing, which yields a considerable rent: the salmon are of an excellent quality, not inferior to any in Scotland.—The hills are mostly covered with grass: the most remarkable is *Cruachan Bean*, one of the highest mountains in Scotland, 13 or 14 computed miles in circumference, affording excellent pasturage for black-cattle and sheep. It is very steep towards the N. E. and slopes gently down on the S. but rises with an abrupt ascent towards the summit, which is divided into two points, each exactly resembling a sugar loaf. The N. point is reckoned the highest, and commands a very noble and most extensive prospect. The sea-pink grows upon it, and sea-shells have been found on the summit.——The parish abounds with natural wood; and there are a few plantations of pines and Scotch firs. Every cutting of the wood is supposed, at a moderate computation, to yield the proprietors no less than L. 15,000 or L. 16,000 sterling. They consist of ash, birch, hazel, and alder, but chiefly oak. They abound with roes; and, on one estate, fallow deer run wild in the woods, of a much superior size and flavour to any of their species that are confined in parks. There is a forest in Glenetie, pretty well stocked with red deer. Foxes, hares, wild-cats, pole-cats,

martins,

martins, weazels, otters, badgers, black cocks, moorfowl, ptarmigans, partridges, plovers, eagles, hawks, &c. are found here.

Natural Productions.——The soil is light and dry, except in a very few instances. The arable land, when properly cultivated, and allowed time to rest for some respite to recover itself, produces excellent crops of oats, barley, and potatoes, of a choice quality. But short leases, and the promiscuous mode of letting victual farms to several tenants, without assigning to each his due proportion of arable ground, throw a damp upon the efforts of industry, and prevent the improvements which would otherwise be introduced. Whereas, by adopting the contrary practice, a spirit of emulation would be excited, the lands cultivated to more advantage than they are at present, and a much greater number would be supported by the produce. But it must be acknowledged that a remarkable alteration for the better, as to agriculture, has taken place within these few years; and the parish of Ardchattan would produce sufficient, for the maintenance of its inhabitants, if the tenants reserved their barley for their own use, but they always sell it to brewers, as it fetches a high price. This is not the case with the parish of Muckairn. About 1753, a company from Lancashire erected a furnace for casting pig-iron, in its vicinity, and obtained a long lease of several farms for rearing wood and grazing their work-horses. These lie waste and uncultivated; and occasion the importation of a considerable quantity of meal into that district. The crops raised here are oats, barley, potatoes, and a small quantity of pease. Hemp and flax are cultivated only for private use. A few sow rye-grass and clover, which yield ample returns.——The manures used here are lime, shell-sand, sea-weeds, and dung.—The Scotch plough is generally used, being well adapted to the soil.——There are 53 ploughs and 100 carts in this district.

Horſes, Cattle, and Sheep.——The number of horſes, including breeding mares, at the loweſt computation, amounts to 440 or 450. Though ſmall, they are well ſhaped, hardy, and eaſily fed. Their price has advanced conſiderably within theſe few years; they now coſt from 10 to L. 12.——In the pariſh are from 2600 to 2800 black-cattle: though not of a large ſize, they are in general handſome and well haired, and in great eſtimation with the Engliſh drovers. Numbers are ſold annually at from L. 4 to L. 6 each. Two five year old ſtots, of the Highland breed, fed by Mr Campbell of Barcaldine, were raiſed to ſuch a ſize as to ſell for 40 guineas this year (1792). —There are between 28,000 and 30,000 ſheep. The large breed, brought ſome years ago from the ſouth country, produce a greater quantity of wool, but are much inferior in quality to the old Highland ſheep. Thouſands are ſold yearly to the low country butchers. When a few are purchaſed by individuals, they ſell for from 12s. to 14s. White wool ſold laſt year at 7s. 6d. the ſtone; wool beſmeared with tar at 5s. 6d.—8 fleeces, on an average, to the ſtone.——The deep rooted prejudice againſt ſwine's fleſh is now removed: moſt of the farmers rear ſome of that ſpecies, which, not 30 years ago, they held in the utmoſt deteſtation.

Rent.——The valued rent is L. 587 : 7 : 4 Scotch. The real rent has increaſed conſiderably within theſe ten years, and is ſuppoſed to be between L. 4,000 and L. 5,000 ſterling, excluſive of the cutting of the woods and the kelp ſhores. It is difficult to aſcertain the quantity of kelp made here, as the ſhores are ſo extenſive that one of the heritors can go upon his own ground no leſs than 9 computed miles along the ſea-coaſt: moreover the kelp is ſold to ſtrangers, who find their account in concealing the produce. Few farms are let below L. 60,

and ſome pay more than L. 200 of rent. There are 7 heritors, 2 of whom conſtantly reſide *.

Population.—According to Dr Webſter, the number of inhabitants in the united pariſhes amounted, in 1755, to 2195: now it has increaſed to between 2300 and 2400. But it appears that this diſtrict was better peopled a few years ago than it is at preſent. Within theſe two or three years 140 perſons emigrated from hence to America; and this year more are preparing to follow, being much encouraged by the flattering accounts of the former emigrants. Several families have removed to the low country, where the wages are high. The principal cauſe of the decreaſe of population is the engroſſing and uniting ſeveral farms, and turning them into ſheep-walks. Farms that formerly ſupported 8 or 9 families are now occupied by only 2 or 3, and, in ſome places, ſolely by one ſhepherd. But, it muſt be acknowledged, that the preſent proprietors have given preference to the old poſſeſſors, and, in ſeveral inſtances, renewed their leaſes at a cheaper rate, and upon eaſier terms, than have been offered to them by ſtrangers. —The yearly average of births is 46; of marriages, 19; and of deaths, 28.

Stipend, Schools, and Poor.——The ſtipend is 1400 merks Scotch,

* All kinds of proviſions are conſiderably increaſed in price. As there is no public market, every family muſt provide their own neceſſaries. A fat cow for ſlaughter, which 30 years ago could be bought at L. 2 : 10, now coſts L. 6. Wethers, butter, cheeſe, geeſe, and hens, in proportion. Meal, at an average, is 16s. barley at 21s. per boll, at leaſt. The day wages of men labourers are 1s without victuals; of maſons 1s. 6d. and of wrights 1s. 6d. Menſervants get from L. 6 to L. 8 *per annum*; and female ditto, from L. 3 to L. 3 : 10.

Scotch, including L. 40 Scotch for communion elements, and 39¾ bolls of meal, with a glebe of 4½ acres. There are 3 places of worſhip, Ardchattan, Muckairn, and Inverguefechan in Glenetie: at the laſt a miſſionary, employed by the committee for managing the royal bounty, preaches alternately with Glenco and Glencreran. Captain Duncan Campbell of Lochnell is patron.——There are 2 parochial ſchools, one in Ardchattan and the other in Muckairn, with a ſalary of L. 10 ſterling to each, and the former alſo receives the intereſt of L. 1000 Scotch. A ſchool is eſtabliſhed in the lower part of Ardchattan pariſh by the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, with a ſalary of L. 13 ſterling; and the ſchoolmaſter's wife has from the Society L. 3 ſterling, for teaching young girls to ſpin, and knit ſtockings, which is of great benefit to the pariſh. There are, beſides, 3 or 4 private ſchools in remote parts of this diſtrict, ſupported by the neighbouring tenants, whoſe children have not acceſs to the public ſchools. The number of ſcholars at all theſe, at the loweſt calculation, amounts to 200 in winter.——The number on the poor's roll is 45; and there is no fund for their ſupport but the weekly collections and dues of mort-cloths, the yearly amount of which does not exceed L. 17 or L. 18;—a ſum very inadequate to the wants of the poor *.

* A part of the walls of the old priory of Ardchattan, founded in the 13th century by John M'Dougal of that ilk, is ſtill ſtanding. The preſent proprietor's dwelling houſe was formerly a part of the monaſtery, and his offices occupy a great part of the ground upon which it ſtood. What now remains of the priory is converted into burying ground, in which are two monuments in niches in the walls; each has a ſtone coffin, and one of them is ornamented with a font, and inſcription in the Runic character. On two graveſtones are effigies of prieſts in their pontifical robes, with inſcriptions in the ſame character. There is a tradition, that in a parliament held in this monaſtery by King

Roads, Services, and Fuel.——The public roads are in good repair, and have been greatly improved within these few years, which renders the access easy from all quarters; but the bye roads, especially such as lead to the glens, are rugged, slippery, and dangerous, lying in some parts along the brink of precipices, and so narrow that two men can hardly pass each other. The statute labour is converted into money.——Some personal services are still exacted, but they are not oppressive, requiring only

King Robert Bruce, immediately after his defeats at Methven and Dalree, the pleadings were in the Celtic language.

In this district stood the famous city of *Beregonium:* it was situated between two hills, one called *Dun Macsnichan*, "the hill of Snachan's son," and the other, much superior in height, is named *Dun bhail an righ*, "the hill of the "king's town." A street paved with common stones, running from the foot of the one hill to the other, is still called *Straid-mharagaid*, "the market "street;" and another place, at a little distance, goes by the name of *Straid namin*; "the meal street." About 10 or 11 years ago a man, cutting peats in a moss between the two hills, found one of the wooden pipes that conveyed the water from the one hill to the other, at the depth of 5 feet below the surface. On *Dun Macsnichan* is a large heap of rubbish and pumice stones; but no distinct traces of any building or fortification can now be seen on either of the hills, the foundations having been dug up for the purpose of erecting houses in the neighbourhood.

There is a tradition, among the lower class of people, that Beregonium was destroyed by fire from heaven. In confirmation of this tradition, it may be mentioned, that a high rock, near the summit of *Dun bhail an righ*, projecting and overhanging the road, has a volcanic appearance and a most hideous aspect. Huge fragments have tumbled down from it. Adjoining to this place, is a fine, open, spacious bay, with a sandy bottom, capable of containing the whole navy of Great Britain.

It would be endless to enumerate all the Druidical monuments in this district Many cairns and heaps of stones are to be seen here: one, in particular, near the centre of a deep moss about 3 or 4 miles in circumference. In different places, are stones rising 12 feet above the surface of the earth, all of them one single stone; and, at a small distance, a number of large stones from 20 to 22 feet in length, of an oval figure.

only 8 days work in the year at different periods. It is the intention of the proprietors to aboliſh all perſonal ſervitude, which will tend to the mutual advantage of both maſter and tenant.———The only fuel uſed by the lower claſſes is peats, which lie in a very inconvenient ſituation for many of the inhabitants, and conſume almoſt the whole ſummer in cutting, leading, and ſecuring them. Till the tax on coals is repealed, any attempt to introduce improvements or eſtabliſh manufactures in the Highlands, will be of no avail.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people in general are ſober, induſtrious, and intelligent; much inclined to hoſpitality; humane and charitable; ready to relieve the diſtreſſed, from whatever quarter they may come. They are all of the Eſtabliſhed church; and punctual in their attendance on divine worſhip. The farmers make a decent appearance; ſeem to enjoy the comforts and conveniencies of life ſuitable to their ſtation; and acknowledge that they have leſs difficulty in paying their rents (though conſiderably increaſed) than they had 30 years ago. The people in general are middle ſized, well proportioned, and can endure great fatigue.—The common language is the Celtic: the names of all the farms are derived from it, and are in general deſcriptive of their ſituations. ———Loch-Etie, which divides Ardchattan from Muckairn and two other pariſhes, is a navigable inlet of the ſea, 15 computed miles in length, but of unequal breadth. Near its mouth is a narrow channel, not much more than a muſquet-ſhot over, at a place called Connel, ſignifying in the Celtic, rage or fury; which is very deſcriptive of this place, as a ridge of rugged and uneven rocks runs acroſs two-thirds of the channel, and occaſions, at certain periods of the ebbing or flowing tide, ſuch a rapid current that no veſſel with the freſheſt breeze can ſtem it. In the beginning of the flood, the tide runs up with a boiſterous rapidity,

rapidity, and at ebb, it returns with a violence and noise unequalled by the loudest cataract. But there is sufficient depth of water, between the ridge of rocks and the land on the west side, for vessels of any size or burden to pass and repass with safety in the beginning of flood or ebb. There is a ferry here, and notwithstanding its alarming appearance, one of the safest in Scotland, as no accident has happened at it in the remembrance of any man living.

The sides of Loch-Etie are pleasant; indented into creeks and bays, affording safe anchorage in any wind whatever; delightfully variegated with hill and dale, meadows and cornfields, wood and water. There are several salmon fisheries on its shores; and it abounds with small red cod and cuddies; and, in some seasons, a few herrings are caught in it. Seals are its constant inhabitants; and porpoises visit it in the latter end of April, and take leave of it about the close of July.

The tide flows six hours, and takes the same time to return: it runs from Connel in a S. E. direction to Bonawe, and, after running along the north side of Cruachan-bean, bends its course N.E. till it terminates in Glenetie, i.e. the valley of Eta, famous for being the residence of Usnath, father of Nathos, Althos, and Ardan; the first of whom ran away with Darthula, wife of Conquhan, King of Ulster in Ireland, which is the subject of a beautiful poem of Ossian. Many places in and about the loch and valley of Eta confirm, beyond a possibility of doubt, that such people were once resident there. In particular, a small island, with some vestiges of a house upon it, goes by the name of *Elain Usnich*, or the island of Usnath. There is also, in the farm of Dalness in Glenetie, a rock rising in the form of a cone, on the end of a high hill, commanding a romantic prospect, which to this day retains the name of *Grianan Dearduil*, the basking place of Darthula.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF KILMUIR EASTER.

(PRESBYTERY OF TAIN, SYNOD OF ROSS.)

By the Rev. Mr. John Matheson.

Name, Extent, and Soil.

THE Celtic, and original name of this parish, is Cilmoir or Cilmary, *Cellamariæ*, a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary; or so called in honour of some lady of that name, by whom it was built and endowed. It is called Kilmuir Easter to distinguish it from another parish within the bounds of the synod of Ross, which, in consequence of an annexation which lately took place, has lost its antient name of Kilmuir Wester, and is now known by the appellation of Knockbain.

The parish lies partly in the county of Ross, and partly in the county of Cromarty. This is the situation of all the parishes within the synod where George, the first Earl of Cromarty, had any property; that nobleman having obtained the privilege of constituting his whole landed property in Scotland into a separate county, called the county of Cromarty; and his property being of considerable extent, and in detached portions, it forms a part of many parishes in the synod. This parish is about 10 miles long, and 4½ broad, on an average. It is

is bounded on the E. by the ſmall river of Balnagown, and by the ſands of Nigg, and bay of Cromarty on the S. The ſituation is truly delightful, having the beſt cultivated parts of ſix neighbouring pariſhes full in view. Beyond theſe, the eye extends over a proſpect of 30 miles, from E. to W. along the Firth; and, towards the S. E. a paſſage opens between the two rocks called the Sutors or Saviours of Cromarty, through which a conſiderable part of the county of Murray is viſible; and all the veſſels, ſmall and great, that enter into the bay, and anchor in this *Portus Salutis*, are ſeen from almoſt every houſe in the pariſh; the whole forming one of the richeſt and moſt beautifully variegated landſcapes in Britain.

The ſoil of this pariſh is various: along the ſhore, which is flat, it is generally light and ſandy, but in rainy ſeaſons very fertile; and, even in the drieſt ſummer, it ſeldom fails of yielding a ſure crop. About a mile from the ſhore, and almoſt parallel to it, a ſloping bank runs from E. to W. through the whole pariſh: here both the ſoil and the climate begin to change, though the bank at its utmoſt altitude is not more than 30 feet above the level of the ſea. In place of the light, warm, and fertile ſoil below, one meets with a wet, cold, and ſurly clay, covered with 2 or 3 inches of black moſſy earth; and in many places a black pan, hard as iron ore, runs in a ſtratum of 2 or 3 inches thick in the boſom of the clay, and about 8 or 9 inches below the ſurface, which in a rainy ſeaſon keeps the water floating above, prevents early ſowing, and ſometime ſtarves the ſeed in the ground. This bank, however, has for the moſt part been long in cultivation, and is all along covered with corn-fields, or ſown graſs, which, with a dry ſpring, and moderate ſummer rains, produce heavy crops. Behind the bank, and towards the north, a plain of 4 miles long, and from 2 to 3 broad, opens to view; of which about a fourth part is in cultivation, a fourth part is moſs yielding

peats to the inhabitants, and the other half a barren muir, of much the same soil with that of the above-mentioned bank. This plain is terminated on the N. by a range of low hills, cultivated in most places half way up to the top; and, behind these hills, a small part of the parish runs N. several miles, in a narrow vale, which yields some corn, and affords good pasture for sheep and black-cattle.

Climate, Diseases, Fish, &c.—Within a mile of the shore, which is sandy, the climate is often mild and temperate; while the bank, and the whole tract of ground behind it, is cold and covered with snow. This, however, is only at intervals, in the winter and spring seasons; for the difference of climate is scarcely perceptible during the rest of the year; and it does not appear that it makes any material odds as to the health of the inhabitants. The air, upon the whole, being very salubrious, the people in general enjoy good health; and there are many instances of longevity in the parish.

There are no rivers or fresh-water lakes in this parish, excepting the small river of Balnagown already-mentioned; in which, at certain times of the year, large burn and sea trout are found: but, in good fishing-seasons, the parish is plentifully supplied with haddocks, cod, skate, flounders, and cuddies, from the Murray-Firth, carried here in baskets by the fishers of Fearn and Nigg. There is a bed of small cockles within the bounds of the parish, which, in scarce years, has proved very useful to the poor people. In 1782, 40 horse loads have been taken out of it in one day. When herrings appear on the coast of Murray, they sometimes come in to the bay and firth of Cromarty, and are killed opposite to this parish by the inhabitants; though not in such quantities as to admit of exportation.

Little wheat is sown here for market. Gentlemen annual-

ly ſow no more than is ſufficient to ſupply their own families; and the time of ſowing it is from the middle of September to the end of November:—rye, oats, and peaſe, from the beginning of March to the middle of April; barley, flax, and potatoes, from the middle of April till the 20th of May; and turnips from the 15th to the 25th of June. The harveſt generally begins about the 20th of Auguſt, and, in good weather, the crop is ſecured by the middle of October.

Improvements.——It is computed that 300 acres of muir ground in this pariſh have been brought into culture, within the laſt 25 years; partly by mealers, encouraged by the proprietors, and enticed to build huts on the muir, in the vicinity of peats and turf,—partly by the moſt ſubſtantial farmers who, as they proceed to incloſe their farms, trench the barren ground within their lines; and partly by the proprietors, who have ſet the example before their tenants. The late Admiral Sir John Lockhart Roſs added 45 acres of muir ground to the policy round the family ſeat; a great part of which now yields very good corn and graſs. At the expence of L. 10,000 ſterling, laid out in trenching, building, fencing, &c. in the courſe of 25 years, he has greatly beautified the face of the country; and made Balnagown one of the moſt deſirable ſeats in the north. Immenſe tracts of ground, at proper diſtances from the houſe, are covered with very thriving plantations of fir, or foreſt trees; moſt of which were planted by his immediate predeceſſor; and of which his family now begin to reap the benefit. Sir Charles Roſs draws upwards of L. 200 annually from his fir wood in this pariſh.——Within a mile of the houſe of Balnagown, towards the S. and near the ſhore, lies New-Tarbat, the principal ſeat of the Earls of Cromarty: this place, once the pride of Roſs, both for ſituation and policy, was, during the forfeiture of that family, not only neglected

glected, but dismantled of its principal ornaments: the largest forest trees ever seen in this country were cut down, and sold to a company at Leith; much of the ground within the policy was parcelled out in lots to disbanded soldiers and sailors; and the most elegant and best finished house in the three counties was allowed to fall into ruins. The place however promises, in a few years hence, to recover its antient beauty and grandeur.—The late Lord M'Leod, immediately upon the restoration of his estate, began to extend and inclose the policy; planted many thousand forest and fir trees, which are now in a thriving condition; and built a superb house upon a modern plan, which, in point of elegance and accommodation, is inferior to few seats in Scotland. What was left unfinished of his lordship's plans, are now carried on with attention and taste by Captain Kenneth M'Kenzie, his successor, and the representative of that honourable family.

Farms and Rent.—The disproportion of farms in this parish is very great; some renting 50, some 100, and some 150 acres, while others possess no more than from 3 to 12. By an union of farms that lately took place, many of the small tenants were obliged to retire to the waste grounds, a limited portion of which is assigned to each of them by the proprietors: here they plant potatoes; and, by industry and perseverance, bring two, three, or more acres to culture, in the course of 7 years; during which time, they sit rent-free, excepting a small acknowledgement in hens and eggs. There is no other encouragement given them, excepting an advance of 20s. to assist them in building a house, the value of which they must leave upon the ground when they remove; and, if they continue in possession after the 7 years are expired, they pay, some less and some more, for every acre in cultivation.

The valued rent of the parish is L. 2691 Scotch: the real

rent does not much exceed L. 1400 ſterling. The land next the ſhore lets at 20s. per acre, and near the village of Milntown 30s. and upwards is paid for ſmall lots; but more remote from the ſhore, the farmers, on an average, pay no more than 15s. per acre.—The proprietors begin to ſee the advantage of granting leaſes to their tenants, and to convert the half of the victual rent into money, at 14s. per boll, including cuſtoms and ſervices.

Number of Proprietors, &c.—There are 6 proprietors; 3 either occaſionally or conſtantly reſide in the pariſh: 15 ſmall feuars in the village of Milntown, moſt of whom have no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre each; 17 larger, and about 40 ſmaller tenants; and a great number of new ſettlers, paying from 5s. to 20s. rent each. There are 4 ſhop-keepers, 3 diſtillers, 12 maſons, 4 cart wrights, 1 cooper, 6 houſe-carpenters, 4 blackſmiths, 1 carpet-weaver, 2 ſtocking-weavers, 15 common weavers, 10 taylors, 10 ſhoe-makers, and 20 lime-makers. The pariſh is well ſituated for carrying on manufactures of different kinds; but no plan has been hitherto adopted that ſeems promiſing of ſucceſs in that way. Mr John Montgomery, merchant in Milntown, has introduced the ſpinning of flax among the people, and has been pretty ſucceſsful for 30 years in that branch; ſo that all the women, old and young, are become dexterous at the ſpinning wheel, and have greatly increaſed their yearly income by it. A ſtocking manufactory was lately introduced to the pariſh, under the patronage of Sir John Lockart Roſs, which did not meet with that encouragement which might be expected. It is now carried on ſolely by Mr Montgomery, who ſeems to think, that it will not prove a profitable trade in this country for ſome time.

Population.——It is certain that the number of inhabitants, in

in this parish, is triple what it was 50 years ago. This increase is ascribed to the great extent of improveable waste ground in the parish, the easy access to fuel, and the encouragement given by proprietors and tenants to day-labourers: these inducements led many emigrants from the Highland parishes to settle here. And, in the year 1763, the commissioners for managing the annexed states, settled 48 families of disbanded soldiers and sailors at once in the parish; allowing to each a house and three acres of arable land, expecting, that in process of time these families would prove a nursery for the army and navy; but, in the course of 10 years, there remained in the parish no more than 2 families of these strangers, all the rest having deserted their lots, which are now occupied by a more industrious set of people.

Population is daily on the increase. Fifty new houses have been built within the last four years; and there is not one uninhabited house in the parish.—By an accurate list taken in April last, there were then living in the parish, 1975 persons: of whom, there were,

Under 10 years of age -	450
Between 10 and 50 - -	900
——— 50 and 70 - - -	581
——— 70 and 80 - -	35
——— 80 and 90 - - -	7
——— 90 and 100* - - -	2
	1975

The return to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 1095 souls.

Abstract

* A sea-faring man died last spring in the parish, who, though he did not know with certainty the year that gave him birth, yet, from remarkable æras and events remembered by him, it was easy to determine that he surpassed 100 years of age. He had a faint remembrance of the famine that prevailed in

Abstract of the Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, for 6 years preceding 15th October 1790.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	40	7	54
1785	46	10	28
1786	44	10	41
1787	42	8	25
1788	45	8	38
1789	53	9	32
	270	54	218
Average	45	9	$36\frac{1}{3}$

The great disproportion that appears in this abstract, arises chiefly from the many emigrant families that settle yearly in the parish. The great number of burials in 1784 was occasioned chiefly by the small pox; since that period, the people have been persuaded to practice inoculation, and they have experienced the happy effects of it.

General Character of the People.—The people are sober, regular, and industrious; though, it is to be lamented, that there are many among them whose morals are corrupted, by having too easy access to spirits, there being upwards of 30 tippling houses in the parish, and only one principal inn; an evil that, (in the opinion of many), might in a great measure be prevented, were the proprietors to make the retail of spirits an irritancy in all the leases they grant, as nothing would contribute

in Scotland in the close of the last century; and saw a common coffin with hinges upon it, made on purpose for burying the people that perished on the highways for want of food. He was 65 years an elder of this church.

tribute more to introduce sobriety among the people, than to have the number of whisky retailers circumscribed. Three retailing houses in the parish would be more than sufficient to answer all the necessary demands of the public. But it deserves to be remarked, that, notwithstanding the free use of spirits among the people, few feuds and quarrels are heard of in the parish.

Church, Schools, and Poor.——The church was built *anno* 1621.——The stipend has lately received an augmentation; and, with a glebe improved by the present incumbent at a great expence, is, *communibus annis*, equal to L. 100.——The family of Cromarty have been always acknowledged the undisputed patrons.——There are 2 schools in the parish; the one supported by the heritors, the other by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The parochial school has no more than 100 merks Scotch for salary; which, with all the school dues and emoluments, are not sufficient to provide the teacher with the common necessaries of life. The Society allow L. 13 sterling to the teacher employed by them. There are upwards of 120 children taught at these schools; and the happy effects, in the manners and morals of the people, appear every year more and more conspicuous.——The Celtic is the prevailing language; but there are very few under 30 years of age in the parish, who do not speak both that and English. ——The average number of poor who now receive alms is 100. The sum distributed annually among them seldom exceeds L. 15 sterling. This sum arises partly from the weekly collections, and partly by a small sum established in plentiful years; and which lately received an addition of L. 24 sterling, the donation of the deceased Mrs Fraser of Pitcailzien. The greatest part of the money, under the management of the session, is appropriated to the relief of poor persons confined to

the bed of sickness. The poor, who are able to travel from door to door for their subsistence, have no more allowed them than what will purchase a pair of shoes once in the year *.

Mode of Cultivation.—There are 84 ploughs in the parish: most of them of the old Scotch construction, and well adapted for the stony ground. The proprietors, and first rate farmers, use the English plough, drawn by two horses; and, if the land be stiff, two oxen are commonly yoked after the horses.

* The average price of barley, meal, and pease, for the last 15 years, may be rated, *communibus annis*, at 12s. 6d. per boll. During that period, victual was sold in this parish for 9s. and 10s.—in other years it was sold for 12s. and frequently for 15s. per boll of 9 stones: oats sold from 10s. to 12s. per boll; potatoes for 8s. and some years for 10s. per boll.———The average price of beef, mutton, pork, and veal, from the beginning of October to the first of January, is 3d. for those of the best, and 2d. halfpenny for those of inferior qualities. During the rest of the year, butcher meat, except mutton, gives higher prices.—Fresh butter sells for 8d. per lb. 16 ounces; salted butter in casks for 12s. per stone; common cheese 4s. and cheese of a superior quality 5s. and sometimes 6s. per stone: the price of a good hen is 6d.—a duck 8d.—a chicken 2d.—eggs 1d. per dozen.

The wages of labourers are in proportion to the strength and skill of the persons employed. Some men get 8d. while others receive no more than 6d. per day. The wages of women, especially in harvest, are of late years increased from 4d. to 6d. per day; out of which they furnish their own provisions. The day's pay of a mason, carpenter, and slater, is from 1s. 2d to 1s. 6d. per day. Shoe-makers, taylors, and weavers, make their own prices, there being no standard in the parish to regulate the value of this work.—Domestic and farm servants have, at an average, L. 3 *per annum*. Out-servants are allowed L. 3 wages, and 6 bolls meal for maintenance; together with so much arable land, rent-free, as is sufficient to provide 7 or 8 bolls of potatoes, a free house, garden, and peats: all which is computed to be worth L. 12 *per annum*;—a sufficiency in this country to enable a careful, sober man, with the assistance of a virtuous wife, to live more comfortably than many of the farmers, and to rear a family of children till they are of age to work for their bread.

ſes.—If the ſeaſon is favourable, moſt of the ſtrongeſt land is ploughed in the months of October, November, and December.——The rotation commonly obſerved of late, by the principal farmers, is, to ſow barley and graſs ſeeds after the land has been prepared by green crops; and, after reſting for two or three years, the ſame field is ploughed up again in the month of Auguſt, with a rich foggage, which in a great meaſure ſupplies the want of manure; and yields the firſt year a good crop of barley, the next a crop of oats, and the third year, a crop of peaſe, potatoes, or turnips, which prepares it for laying down again with barley and graſs ſeeds. By this mode, the land is always kept clean, and in good condition. But it muſt be remarked, that though this be the moſt approved plan, few in the pariſh have hitherto followed it. The people in general, however, begin to ſee the advantage of ſowing graſs ſeeds, and of adhering to a regular rotation of crops; and it is very probable that the practice will prevail univerſally in the courſe of a few years. The ſheep farming lately introduced into this country, will ſoon compel the people to ſow conſiderable quantities of graſs ſeeds.——Formerly, they got moſt of their cattle grazed on the neighbouring hills, at the rate of 18d. per head, for 4 or 5 months of the year: theſe hills are now covered with ſheep; and the low country farmer muſt reduce his ſtock of black-cattle, in proportion to the graſs he can raiſe annually upon his farm.

Produce.—The vegetable productions of the pariſh have already been ſpecified. About two-thirds of the barley is diſtilled in this and the neighbouring pariſhes into whiſky; and nearly the ſame proportion of oats and oat-meal is bought up by commiſſion, and carried to market;—ſo that the produce of the pariſh is much more than ſufficient for the conſumpt of the inhabitants.——With reſpect to animal productions, it is com-

puted that there are about 800 black-cattle, 300 horses, and about 900 sheep in the parish. A third of the black cattle, are what is commonly called here, true Highlanders; the rest either have been introduced into the parish from Fife and Aberdeen, or are a cross breed between these and the Highland bull: these last are by far the best cattle in the parish, and by all appearance will prevail.——The breed of horses has been greatly improved of late years; but the small hardy Highland breed are still preferred by persons who have but small lots of land, because they are easily supported.——The sheep are all of the small country breed, except a few large ones kept by gentlemen within their policy.——The deer, in winter and spring, visit the heights of this parish. There are many foxes and hares; and some badgers and otters.—Most of the sea fowls known in Scotland frequent the shore in great numbers, particularly in stormy and severe winters. In the inland and Highland parts of the parish, there is a great variety of game: muir-fowl, black-cock, wood-cock, wood-pigeon, curlew, plover, &c. but, though all these are inhabitants of the parish, it is proper to observe, that there are not many of each kind *.

Miscellaneous

* The only remains of antiquity that stood in this parish, were last year removed. In the place of Delny, once a principal seat of the Earls of Ross, stood the ruins of a Romish chapel on a pleasant bank, surrounded with graves. This spot has been deserted as a burying place for many years; and the present farmer (not adverting to the impropriety of such a measure) carried away all the stones to build his farm houses, and the rubbish to meliorate his land; and ploughed up the burying ground, with an intention to make it an addition to a corn field. The present incumbent, having heard of this species of sacrilege, visited the spot, and found it covered with the bones of the dead, turned up with the plough. The indelicacy of his conduct was represented to the farmer; and he was persuaded to collect the reliques, and to deposit them again in the earth; and he solemnly engaged to draw lines round the sacred spot, to erect

Miscellaneous Observations.——There are 3 public roads in the parish, running parallel, and nearly at equal distances from

erect a stone in the middle with a suitable inscription, to sow down the spot with grass seeds, and never more to disturb the manes of his fathers.

In the vicinity of this chapel is an eminence, called *Cnoc an tagairt*, or Priesthill. Near this place stood the remains of a cross, at the extremity of a small village. Thither all the people belonging to the barony of Delny, which comprehended a great part of the county of Ross, resorted once in the year, to pay homage to their superior. Here also the barons held their criminal courts; and, if tradition can be credited, the punishment inflicted upon criminals was, to hang the men and drown the women. Corresponding to this tradition, there is a hill within a computed mile of Delny, called *Cnoc na croich*, or Gallows-hill; and on the summit of this hill is a circular pool of water, many fathoms deep, called *Poul a bhaidh*, or the Drowning-pool.

In the year 1751, as labourers were digging a bank of earth near the village of Milntown, they found 4 stones standing erect in the earth, and forming a circle. Here the men looked for a treasure: and, after having with much attention opened the earth, they found a human skeleton, sitting in an erect posture, on a seat seemingly made for that purpose. Many credible persons now living, authenticate this as a fact known to themselves. Tradition says, that several persons have been buried alive in this and the neighbouring parish, by the direction of a cruel and arbitrary landlord, who was proprietor of these lands in the beginning of last century.

Till of late years, little barrows or tumuli in the parish, were avoided by the people with particular caution. The tradition regarding them is, that the plague had once made great ravages in this country, and that all who died of this disease were buried under these tumuli. Such was the terror of the people for the plague, that they would not so much as tread upon one of them, or suffer their horses or carriages to touch them. So late as 1768, one of these tumuli, not much larger than a cart load of earth, was left an impediment on the middle of the road, at the principal entry of the village of Milntown; and no argument could prevail with the inhabitants to remove it. At length, a certain person, who wished to undeceive the people, and cure them of their prejudices, undertook to remove this little barrow; and, while he was thus displaying his courage, the whole inhabitants of the village surrounded him, dissuading him from the dangerous undertaking, and looking every moment for his falling down dead before them: he lives, however, to this day, after

removing

one another. These have been hitherto kept in good repair by the statute-labour; but it is proposed to convert the statute-labour into money; and, if that plan is adopted, time will discover whether it will, or will not, prove advantageous to the inhabitants and to the public.——— There are three bridges in the parish. Two of them are built over the water of Balnagown; the other over a river into which the sea flows at stream tides, and which, before this bridge was built in 1789, proved very inconvenient to travellers.

There is an extensive level bed of shells, of diverse kinds, in the sands of New-Tarbat and Nigg, chiefly the property of the family of Cromarty, and manufactured into lime by persons trained up to the business from their infancy. There are 20 men, with their wives and children, who are employed in this trade. At full sea, they go from the shore in boats, cast anchor over the bed of shells, and remain there till the sea ebbs; then all hands begin to dig up the shells and freight the boats; and they are ready by the time of flood to return to the shore: this is attempted only in the summer season. The lime manufactured from these shells is reckoned an excellent cement for building, and is peculiarly adapted for plaistering, and finished work. There are 8 boats in the parish; 5 of which are employed in the lime trade for 3 or 4 months: during the rest of the year, they either fish on the neighbouring coasts, or are employed in carrying corn and peats to the opposite shore.

removing this bug-bear, and reducing the ground to a level with the road. From that period, little regard is paid to these tumuli: some of them have been opened, but nothing found worthy of remark.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF KINNEFF.

(PRESBYTERY OF FORDON, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS, COUNTY OF KINCARDINE.)

By the Rev. MR. PATRICK STEWART.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c.

THE parish has probably taken its name from a castle, the ruins of which are still to be seen upon the margin of the sea, not above 100 yards distant from the church, and to which the church had been a chapel. There are also the remains of a religious house, called St Arnty's kill, at the N. corner of the farm garden, in a straight line betwixt the church, which may be supposed to have furnished clergy to the chapel. There is a small head-land, about 200 yards N. E. of the castle, which might have given rise to the name. History does not mention by whom the castle was built, or the church endowed. There is a vulgar tradition, that the former was erected by one of our kings of the name of Kenneth, and was a royal residence.—The church is about 2 miles N. E. from the burgh of Bervie.——The parish extends along the sea-coast, from the mouth of the river Bervie northward, about the space of 5 miles.—There are in the parish many rising grounds or small

hills, mostly covered with heath; wherein is to be be found a coarse stone with a rotten surface, at a small depth under ground. The soil, particularly along the coast, is a fine rich loam mixed with clay; yielding plentiful crops of wheat, barley, beans, pease, and sown grass, when improved in the modern manner, by fallow, draining and lime. The higher grounds at some distance from the coast, yield good crops of oats, bear, pease, turnip, and grass: and the industrious farmer, by judicious management, here finds his labour well rewarded.—As the parish lies high, without lochs or swamps, the air is very healthy.

Rivers, Sea-Coast, and Minerals.——There are only 2 or 3 small rivulets in the parish; which, by means of dams, make a shift to turn water mills, principally in the winter season. —The shore, which bounds the parish on the E. for about 5 miles, as mentioned above, is bold and rocky; the tide reaches the foot of the rock, which rises abruptly from 20 to 60 yards in perpendicular height. The rock is for the most part of the pease-porridge or plum-pudding kind; and is thought to have the appearance of lava. The foundings all along the coast, at 100 yards or less from the shore, are from 8 to 13 or 14 fathoms. There are no rocks which cannot be seen at low water.—The strata of the rocks dip to the S. W. from 30 to 40 degrees.——The bold shore, leaving only a small space of the rocky bottom uncovered at low water, but a small quantity of kelp, perhaps only 4 or 5 tons annually, is made in this parish; and, for the same reason, the sea-ware is of little benefit.——The best creek in the parish is at Caterline, belonging to the Viscount Arbuthnott, which has two boats; and, if some money were laid out in raising a small pier at this town, where there is a good situation for it, it would afford a convenient and safe harbour for coasters of 30 or 40 tons burden;

and

and a good ſituation for a village, for the accommodation of tradeſmen and manufacturers, might be had in the neighbourhood. The great quantity of corn ſold annually by the farmers would be of advantage to ſuch a village.—The next place of reſidence for white-fiſhers is Gap-hill, about half a mile S. of Caterline. It formerly had two boats, now it has only one, and lies in a ſmall bay, on the north ſide of the Tod-head, called Braddan-bay. This bay is about 100 yards in extent, with a rocky bottom, and gravelly beach, where ſmall barks in ſummer unload lime, coals, &c.——There are no quarries except the ſea-rocks above mentioned. They make a ſtrong, durable, ſtraight wall, but are rather too hard for hewing. Theſe rocks have been uſed for mill-ſtones, and are in great repute for that purpoſe.

Population.—In 1755, the number of ſouls was 858. They have ſince increaſed; for, by a very accurate viſitation-roll lately taken up, it contains about 1000 ſouls. There is neither town nor village, nor 6 families dwelling together, (the ſea-towns of Gap-hill and Caterline excepted), in all the pariſh.

The following Statement is taken from the Regiſter of Baptiſms and Marriages.

	Baptiſms.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Marriages
From 1750 to 1760 -	127	138	265	89
From 1760 to 1770 -	129	97	226	87
From 1770 to 1780 -	96	97	193	102
From 1780 to 1790 -	93	98	191	65
	445	430	875	343

It is proper to obſerve, that according to the ſeſſion clerk's account,

account, there may be 30 or 40 baptisms, through the carelessness of the parents and church officer, neglected to be registered in the above period.—— The yearly average of burials for 6 years, preceding 1790, is 14½.

There are 8 heritors in the parish. The number of farmers is about 35; whereof 12 possess pretty extensive farms, paying from L. 280 down to L. 70 of yearly rent; and the smaller farmers pay from L.70 to L.10.—There are also about 150 families, or houses where families live. The number of white-fishers, both old and young, in the sea-towns, is about 18. There are as many house-carpenters, joiners, taylors, and other artificers, as are needful for the ordinary supply of the parish. There are also about 20 weavers; who are principally employed in manufacturing sacking and ticking, which are the ordinary clothes made for sale in this parish.

All the inhabitants are of the Established church, except 2 men and 4 women Scotch Episcopals, and one man and his wife of the English church.

The number of families is thought to be considerably smaller than it was about 20 years ago. The reason given for this is, that since improvements in agriculture began, some of the farmers occupy more land than their predecessors; for they think a small farm will not defray the expence of management. For this land they pay a very considerably advanced rent, and are at a much more considerable expence in improving it. This farmer, therefore, cannot let a small parcel of land, and keep a cow, to a tradesman or mechanic, upon terms near so low as formerly. The tradesman grudges to pay what the farmer thinks his accommodation worth. The consequence is, the tradesman retires to a town or village, and the farmer tills his own fields, and this, perhaps, is for their mutual comfort and advantage: the farmer, however, will always give encouragement to ground-labourers, because they are necessary

ceſſary to him.—Every healthy perſon who is willing to work, and is a good economiſt, will earn food and clothing here.—The pariſh has had no emigrants, nor need any of the people remove for want of employment.

Cattle, Horſes, and Sheep.—The pariſh rears a conſiderable number of black-cattle; many more now than formerly. The great advance of price induces the farmer to rear 4 times the number of calves which he raiſed 15 or 20 years ago: and his improved land enables him to feed them on ſown graſs and turnips, until they are from 2 to 3 years old. He then finds a ready market, and good prices, from his ſouthern neighbours. Cattle dealers from England are alſo ſometimes ſeen in the markets.

The horſes have for ſome time paſt (ſince it became cuſtomary to perform all the labour with theſe animals) been brought from the ſouth and weſt country, becauſe the native breed were not of ſufficient ſize. The farmers now begin to rear horſes fit for their own work, and find their account in ſo doing: this alſo is a conſequence of having improved their land. Some of the farmers perform part of their labour with large oxen, harneſſed in the ſame manner as horſes, and think they profit by this mode of working them. For bringing the practice of working oxen in this way to the higheſt perfection, the farmers are indebted to Lord Monboddo, who wiſhes to give countenance and encouragement to every uſeful improvement in agriculture. He was the firſt perſon we know of, who had a pair of oxen trained to go in the wheel-plough and cart in the ſame manner as horſes; and he had the ſatisfaction to find that they performed their work equally well.

There are no ſheep, notwithſtanding of the waſte heaths which were divided, about a dozen years ago, among the proprietors of land. Perhaps, when the lands are all improved, and be-

gin to be exhausted by crops of grain, the farmers may think of cultivating the breed of this very useful and profitable animal; and the moors will then become useful by supplying them with heath and whins.

Contents, Cultivation, &c.—From an accurate survey and exact map of the county, published in the year 1774 by Mr William Garden, it appears that the parish contains 5043 Scotch, or 6408 English acres. Perhaps about one-half, or rather nearly two thirds are arable.

It has been already observed, that the parish may be divided into coast-side and upper lands. The present post road nearly forms the line of this partition These two divisions are not so different in soil as they are in situation and climate. The mode of cultivation may therefore be nearly the same, but the produce is different. It may also be proper to remark, that the situation, from being extended along the coast, affords easy access to lime brought by sea. The farmers find no difficulty in getting small barks to run a-shore on the beach, at two or three places where there is access for carts; and, by these means, get as much lime as is necessary at a short distance from their land. Of this manure they have at length learned to make the proper use. They fallow, clean, level, straighten, and drain their fields, and then put lime on them in proportion to the quality of the soil.——To strong land, they give from 40 to 70 bolls of lime shells to the Scotch acre, which boll contains 32 Scotch pints to the firlot; and, to land that is lighter, from from 30 to 40 bolls per acre are allowed—To the strong land in the neighbourhood of the coast thus managed, the farmer adds from 40 to 50 cart loads of dung to the acre. He then lays it down with wheat: his second crop is hoed beans or turnips; and his third barley or bear, and grass seeds. The high lands

and light ſoils, after being dreſſed in a ſimilar manner, carry good crops of turnips, barley or bear, oats, peaſe, and graſs.

Produce.—Crops of wheat yield from 40 to 50 Wincheſter buſhels per acre; and the ſubſequent crops of beans, barley, or bear, on ſtrong land, produce nearly the ſame quantity. On the higher grounds and light ſoils, the firſt crops of oats and bear, after thorough dreſſing, are nearly the ſame in quantity with thoſe already mentioned.—It may farther be remarked, that the beſt and moſt experienced farmers are of opinion, that it is for their intereſt to have at leaſt one-half of their arable land (or perhaps more) in fallow, graſs, and green crop. —All the farmers raiſe turnips for their cows and young cattle; and they in general are of opinion, that this is a more profitable way of uſing turnips than to feed cattle for the butcher. Cabbages in the field have been tried; but cattle always prefer turnips when they can get them. The only advantage of cabbage is, that in time of very deep ſnow, or hard froſt, they may be got when turnips cannot be had.

From the account given of the number of inhabitants, the mode of cultivation, and the returns the land makes, it is evident the farmers raiſe much more grain, and many more black-cattle, than can be conſumed in the pariſh. What grain and meal are ſold from the middle and ſouth part of the county, find in general a ready market at Bervie, Johnſhaven, and Montroſe; being ſent from theſe places by the canal to the weſt country. The farmers have, for ſome years paſt, regretted the failure of the Firth diſtillers, as the great conſumers of their bear and barley. The north part of the pariſh and county, ſend what grain they have to ſpare to Stonehaven and Aberdeen. The pariſh may annually export about 4500 bolls of grain, and about 300 black-cattle.—Several attempts have been

 made

made to raise flax; but not with much success, as the people do not understand the management of it*.

Rent.—The valued rent of the whole parish amounts to L. 4309 : 19 Scotch money; and the real rent may be at present about L. 2000 sterling, including farm victual. The rent has been rising for these 20 years past. Of late it has risen astonishingly. For example, an estate in this parish was lately bought for L. 7000 that 25 years ago was offered to be sold for 2000 guineas: that estate, however, now pays nine times the rent it paid at that period. Another estate has been lately sold for L. 4300, which, not above 30 years ago, was bought for little more than L. 750: and several farms in this parish pay now three times as much rent as they paid 7 years ago. This rapid advance of the value of land may be chiefly owing to the easy access to lime, which is the first great mean of improvement; and also, to the superior skill the farmers have acquired in the management of their ground, which makes them more industrious and enterprising than they formerly were†.—The

* The average prices for some years past may be computed nearly as follows, viz.

Wheat, Winchester measure - -	L. 0	19	0	per boll.
Barley, Montrose measure, containing 32 Scotch pints to the firlot - - -	0	15	6	
Chester-bear, Montrose measure - -	0	13	4	
Beans, 22 Scotch pints to the firlot - -	0	13	0	
Pease, same measure - - -	0	12	0	
Oat-meal - - - - - -	0	1	8	per stone

The farmers generally sell their two year old stots and queys for from L. 3 to L. 6, and the three year old from L. 5 to L. 10 sterling each.

† When writing on this subject, it is but doing justice to a very respectable character to say, that the farmers owe their superior skill and management to Mr Barclay of Ury:—A gentleman, whose acknowledged merit entitles him to have his name transmitted to posterity as the first, the most extensive, and judicious

The rent of land in the parish is from 20s. to 30s. the Scotch acre for the best, and from 10s. to 15s. for inferior grounds. The extent of the farms is from 30 to 300 acres*.

Fish

dicious systematic improver of land in the north of Scotland. The thinking part of the farmers have attended to Mr Barclay's operations for 20 years, and are now convinced of the propriety and advantage of his mode of improvement; and they do not want skill and inclination so much as they want stock to enable them to profit by his example and instructions. This want, he with his usual good sense and discernment, has, to his own tenants in a great measure supplied. For to them he has let his unimproved lands at a moderate rent; he has laid down a plan for the improvement and after management of their farms, which they are bound to abide by; and to such of them as need it, he has advanced the means of improvement for two or three years, interest free. By that time the produce of the dressed fields, upon which the money has been laid out, enables the possessor to repay the proprietor his advance. Mr Barclay has also built comfortable dwelling houses and convenient offices upon all his farms. Thus are all his tenants enabled to carry on their improvements much faster than if they had not these advantages. They live comfortably while they are doing so: when the greatest part of their ground is improved they begin to save money; and, by the time their present leases expire, they themselves will offer (if not double rent) a very great advance for the farms they occupy.

Were the landholders, especially in the north of Scotland, to follow the above or a similar plan, their tenants would be enabled sooner to improve their grounds, to live better than they do at present, and the proprietors in the end must be very considerable gainers by the bargain.

* Best men-servants who live in the family, receive 6 guineas a year; second sort, 5; and, to those who are capable of overseeing and directing the operations of a farm, as well as working themselves, the farmers give L. 10 a year. The women-servants get from 50s. to 60s. a year. The wheel plough, the chain, the Lothian, and double moulded ploughs are used. A labouring servant, when married, commonly gets from his master a house and a small piece of garden ground: he also gets his fuel brought to his house; six pounds or 6 guineas *per annum*, of wages; and a stone of oat-meal per week for his maintenance. If his master keep a cow for him he pays him 40s. a year for doing so.—The wages of men-labourers are 6d. sterling per day and victuals, from Candlemas to Michaelmas; from that time until Candlemas again, 4d.

and

Fish and Fuel.—A ling sells from 1s. to 2s.—a cod, from ½d to 1s.—a skate from 3d. to 1s.—haddocks 1s. per dozen. The price of all kinds of fish is much higher than it was 7 years ago, because of the great scarcity of them upon this coast. Haddocks give now six times their former price; and, after all, our fishers are giving up their employment because they cannot live by it. They also complain of the hardships they suffer by press warrants being issued against them, when there is war, or rumour of war; because they must either then desert their families, who live in misery in their absence, or pay an exhorbitant sum, much more than they can afford, to one who goes for them.

The only fuel used here is coals, either Scotch or English. The former cost 8s. 6d. per boll of 70 stones Amsterdam; and the

and victuals. At hay-cutting, a man gets 1s. per day, with victuals and drink. In harvest he gets the same. Women, when hired by the day to field work, get 4d. and victuals: in harvest 9d.—When farmers hire men for all the harvest, they generally give from a guinea to 25s.—and women hired in that way get from 16s. to 20s—for this they become bound to assist in down-cutting, ingathering, and thatching all the crop.———The wages of a taylor are 8d.—a carpenter 8d.—and a mason 1s. 2d. with victuals. The wages of all these have been raised within these 7 years. If a labouring man luckily marry an industrious well managing woman, and is sober himself, they may live and bring up a family with some degree of comfort, especially if they have saved any money before marriage; which, we are sorry to say, is seldom the case:—for the women generally spend as much upon fine clothes, and the men upon fine clothes and drink before marriage, as would greatly assist them when they have more need of it to support themselves and children.

The present average price of beef, mutton, pork, lamb, and veal, we may reckon at 3d. per Amsterdam pound, at Bervie and Stonehaven, our market towns. In autumn it may be cheaper, and in spring dearer. The price of a hen is from 6d. to 8d.—a dozen eggs 3d.—a duck 6d.—chickens 2d.—butter 8d. per lb. of 22 ounces Amsterdam weight;—and cheese from 4s. 6d. to 5s. for 22 Amsterdam pounds to the stone.

the latter 3s. per boll of 24 ſtones. Twenty years ago, the farmers brought peat and turf from the hill moſſes, at 12 miles diſtance, and were thus employed during the whole ſummer. It is no wonder, therefore, that rents were then low: but, as that ſeaſon is now employed in the cultivation of their lands, they find themſelves reduced to the neceſſity of burning coal fires; and few of them regret the change. They, however, complain of the heavy duty on Scotch coals as a hindrance to agriculture, and a grievous burden on manufactures, and poor people of all denominations. There are ſtill ſome broom and whins on the dry waſte grounds, which the poor people grub up for preſent uſe in ſummer.

Stipend, School, and Poor.—The value of the living, including the two glebes of Kinneff and Caterline, may be about L. 80 ſterling; and there has been no augmentation ſince the year 1650 *.——The ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of 200 merks Scotch, by decreet.——The church and manſe were built in 1738, and both repaired in 1784.——The average number of poor upon the roll, who regularly receive alms, may be 15. The ſeſſion, moreover, give occaſional ſupplies to induſtrious houſe-holders

* In the year 1709, the pariſh of Caterline was re-annexed to the pariſh of Kinneff, it having been formerly a part of that pariſh, by which the living was encreaſed 300 merks Scotch. The pariſh of Bervie of old made a part of the pariſh of Kinneff:—For, by a decree of the Lords Commiſſioners for tiends, in 1608, the pariſh of Bervie is decerned to remain a part of the pariſh of Kinneff; and, becauſe there was no bridge on the river of Bervie, the miniſter of Kinneff agreed to keep a ſuffragan miniſter at Bervie. In 1650, the heritors agreed to augment the miniſter of Bervie's ſtipend, and alſo the ſtipend of Kinneff; becauſe the miniſter of the latter had given all that part of his ſtipend, which was paid out of the lands on the S. ſide of the river Bervie, and L. 47 Scotch more, to the ſuffragan of Bervie. This was the laſt augmentation of the ſtipend of Kinneff, and it left the living leſs than before.

house-holders with numerous families, who may stand in need of it. The annual sum collected for their relief, including the rents of some seats in the church, which belong to the poor, and also the interest of L. 150 sterling at $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* may amount to L. 25 sterling. An annual collection, amounting to about L. 3 sterling is made for the infirmary of Aberdeen. There the sick and infirm parishioners are received, upon bringing a recommendation from the session; and they have the benefit of lodgings, board, and medicines, until they are either cured, or found to be incurable*.

Miscellaneous

* There are no remains of religious houses but St. Arnty's kill; probably St Arnold's cell, already mentioned as standing between the church and the castle; and the remains of a small chapel upon Kingorny, said to be erected upon the very spot where King David Bruce, landing from France in 1342, with his queen and retinue, had high mass performed for his return: and it is thought to have been a royal chapel for some time after. Near the castle of Kinneff, and beyond a small headland about 100 paces N. E. there are to be seen the remains of an old work, upon the top of a peninsular rock, called the castle of Cadden. It seems to have had a ditch and draw-bridge to protect it from an attack by land, where there remain some vestiges of masonry; the rest seems to have been an earthen mound thrown up about the top of the rock. About 200 paces farther N. E. is another peninsular rock, having the remains of a draw-bridge to the land side; upon the top of this rock are still extant the remains of a small house and other buildings, said to have been inhabited by a private gentleman, about 150 years ago; and is named the castle of Whistleberry. And, about 200 paces N. E. from this last mentioned castle, are the remains of a third strong hold, very much like the first in every respect, but much larger. It is called Adam's castle. With respect to the castle of Cadden and Adam's castle there are no traditionary accounts.

Perhaps it may not be improper here to mention, that in 1652, when the castle of Dunnottar was besieged by Major General Morgan, commander for the English parliament, the regalia of Scotland were brought from thence to Kinneff, where they were kept until the restoration by Mrs Christian Fletcher, the wife of Mr Granger, then minister of Kinneff. Of this circumstance tradition gives the following account, viz. Mrs Granger, attended by

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The famous Dr John Arbuthnott, intimate friend of Pope and Swift, and phyſician to Queen Anne, lived for ſome time in this pariſh. His father, the miniſter of Arbuthnott, was, at the Revolution, turned out of his living by his chief and patron, Lord Arbuthnott, who was then a very keen partizan; upon which, he retired to his own property of Kingorny, where he lived for ſome time, having his ſon, the Doctor, a young man, along with him.

Since improvements in agriculture and manufactures have

by a maid-ſervant, having been at Stonehaven, on her return, aſked leave of the general to viſit Mrs Ogilvie, wife of Mr George Ogilvie, who then commanded the caſtle: this leave ſhe obtained; and, on her return, brought the crown royal in her lap; the general himſelf ſet her on the horſe, and the maid who attended her brought away the ſword and ſceptre on her back in a bag of flax. The regalia were kept ſometimes in the church of Kinneff, concealed under the pulpit, and at other times in a double bottomed bed in the manſe, till the Reſtoration in 1660, when they were delivered to Mr George Ogilvie, who reſtored them. For this good ſervice Mr Ogilvie was made a baronet; and Sir John Keith, brother to the Earl Mariſchal, was created Earl of Kintore; but honeſt Mr Granger and his wife had neither honour nor reward.

Four or five years ago, in digging a grave for Lady Ogilvie of Barras, in the church of Kinneff, there was found, buried in an earthen pot, about a pound and a half of old ſilver coins. They were almoſt all of one ſize, about the breadth of ſixpence; a few about half that ſize; and all bore either the impreſſion of Edward of England, or of Alexander of Scotland. The impreſſion and legend on the Scotch coins are much better executed than on the Engliſh. It is likely this treaſure might have been laid where it was found, about the year 1336, when the Engliſh garriſon occupied the caſtle of Kinneff.

There was a tumulus or cairn, upon St John's hill in this pariſh, opened about 20 years ago: in the bottom of which, a little under the ſurface of the ground, were found three long flat ſtones, one of them covering the other two, and having a ſhorter one at each end. In this was contained nearly a cart-load of rich black earth; having a mixture of half burnt bones, and bits of oak charcoal, without any kind of urn. There are other tumuli in the pariſh.

begun to ſtimulate induſtry, the mode of living among our people is very much changed. They are much better lodged, fed, and clothed, than they were 20 years ago. A joint of meat, and a kan of punch after it, will be ſeen on every farmer's table in the pariſh, when a friend comes to dine with him.

As this part of the coaſt lies at ſome diſtance from any ſtation of exciſe or cuſtom-houſe officers, it has been long famous, or rather infamous, for ſmuggling. By this the morals of the people are conſiderably hurt, as they often meet with temptations to drunkenneſs, theft, and perjury, in the courſe of that buſineſs. This illicit traffic has, however, conſiderably declined on this coaſt of late, owing to the ſucceſsful vigilance of the cruizers appointed for that purpoſe.

The public and private roads in this pariſh are very indifferent. The poſt-road from Bervie to Stonehaven goes through it for more than four miles. But we are ſorry to ſay that here, as in many other places, the ſtatute-labour (as it is applied) has been found inadequate to produce the intended effect. The gentlemen of the county convinced of this, intend applying to Parliament, to authorize them to commute the ſtatute-labour, or eſtabliſh turnpikes. The general voice of the county is in favour of the firſt.

There are few incloſures, and thoſe only of earth, which is found to anſwer the purpoſe only for a ſhort time. No ſtones can be got but from quarries at an immenſe expence; and the pariſh being much expoſed to the ſea, thorns are prevented from growing. The farmers are ſo much convinced of the advantages of incloſing, that they would give from 5s. to 7s. an acre for effecting it.

In 1782, the crop in the pariſh was not ſufficient to maintain its inhabitants, though grain is the ſtaple of this diſtrict. The ſcarcity began to be felt ſeverely about the end of May 1783;

1783; and, had not a confiderable importation taken place the effects muft have been dreadful. A benevolent focie-ty, under the patronage of Mr Barclay of Ury, was formed at Stonehaven, for purchafing meal and grain to be retailed at an under price in that town and the neighbourhood, of which this parifh felt the good effects. There were fome hundred pounds loft, (if money funk on fuch an emergency can be called a lofs), which Mr Barclay generoufly paid, partly out of his own pocket, and partly by donations from his friends in London, given for that purpofe.—The well-meant fupply gifted by Government came at leaft fix weeks too late to give the intended relief. There were bear-meal and potatoes of crop 1783 before it came to hand. It, moreover, confifted of very bad meal, made of damaged peafe and bear ground together. From the latenefs of its coming, and the badnefs of its quality (as famine only could have compelled the people to eat it) fome are induced to think that the merchants were the greateft, if not the only gainers. Had Government, inftead of fending meal, ordered the fum they voted to be paid to the feveral kirk-feffions in due proportions, the Scotch merchants would have fupplied the parifh with good grain or meal (when moftly needed) for the money.

There are no forefts and very little planted wood of any kind; neither will wood thrive, owing to the eaftern expofure, and the height of the land.

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF LEOCHEL.

(PRESBYTERY OF ALFORD, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE FORBES.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c.

LEOCHEL, or *Leath-chuil*, is of Celtic extraction; and signifies the "half of Coul," which is the name of a contiguous parish, described in Vol. III. There is a tradition, that Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen, annexed his lands of Corse in the parish of Coul to the parish of Leochel *quoad sacra*, about the beginning of the 17th century. But the inhabitants of Corse pay the stipend affecting these lands to the minister of Coul; though, for time immemorial, they have been under the care of the minister of Leochel, and received church-benefits from him.

The parish of Leochel, including the estate of Corse, is an acute-angled triangle, with the acute angle to the east, about 5 English miles long, and 4 broad.

There are 3 rivulets in this parish, which join at the north side, and form what is commonly called the water of Leochel, which empties itself into the river Don, a little below

low the church of Alford, 27 miles weſt from Aberdeen. Theſe abound in fine trout; and, in the water of Leochel, ſalmon are ſeen in the ſpawning ſeaſon.

The general appearance of the pariſh is hilly; but none of the hills are high except the hill of Corſe. All of them are covered with heather; and ſome abound in game of various kinds. Hares are very numerous.

Climate, Soil, Produce, &c.—The climate is healthy; and many of the natives live to a good old age, notwithſtanding the dampneſs and wetneſs of the low grounds.—The principal diſtempers are thoſe of the ſcrophulous kind, conſumption, gravel, and rheumatiſm.——The ſoil where the ground is low is a ſtrong clay, and uncommonly free of ſtones. The high arable land is a good mellow ſoil of a fine grey colour. When properly manured and laboured, both produce good crops. The dry ground anſwers well with liming and watering. The country in general is rather late, eſpecially when a rainy ſpring retards the ſowing. The ſown graſs anſwers well; but, where the ground is wet, the red clover ſoon wears out. The natural graſs on the low grounds, by the ſides of the rivulets, is exceedingly good. The farmers ſow corn and bear, a few peaſe, and ſeldom any wheat. Some potatoes are alſo planted; and the people begin to ſow ſmall pieces of ground with graſs and turnips, the advantages of which they are ſenſible of. In a few years, it is hoped, they will be more reconciled to that practice.——The inhabitants live upon meal, potatoes, turnips, and greens, ſeldom uſing any fleſh. They have fowls, butter, and cheeſe in abundance.

Agriculture and Rent.—The people in general are not very induſtrious; and are far from the means of improving their ground. No marle of any kind has been found in the pariſh;

and

and no lime is to be had within 12 or 14 miles. Some of the most industrious and substantial tenants now begin to carry lime-shells from Aberdeen, which are brought thither from Sunderland and the Firth of Forth. The measure contains 32 Scotch pints to the firlot; 4 of which make a boll. The Scotch lime is sold from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. and the English from 2s. 8d. to 3s. per boll; 22 of which are sufficient for an acre of light ground; and clay ground will require from 20 to 26. Lime answers as well with the soil, and raises as good crops, as in any other part of the country.

Mr David Scot of Craigivar, the most opulent, intelligent, and industrious farmer in this parish, has expended L. 50 sterling yearly, for 5 years past, upon lime brought from Aberdeen; and, notwithstanding the long carriage, (28 miles) finds his interest greatly promoted by it. He farms the Mains of Craigivar, consisting of 166 acres of good arable land, which he has inclosed, improved, and properly subdivided with stone and earth fences, and planted some thorns which thrive very well, without gathering moss or fog. The bottom of these inclosures is washed by one of the rivulets, which turns 5 corn-mills, 1 barley-mill, and 2 fulling-mills.——If the tenants were industrious, many of them have great command of water for manure; which, when put upon dry out-field land and properly attended to in the spreading, and removal from place to place upon the ground, (which some are now beginning to do), raises as good crops, both of corn and sown grass, as lime can possibly produce.

There is a great deal of out-field in the parish, when compared with the in town ground. The in-field is constantly in tillage. The out-field is manured with cattle and sheep kept in folds in the summer season; bears five crops of corn, and is as long rested; but carries little or no grass. The acre of in-field is commonly let at from 13s. 4d. to 20s. and the out-

field

field from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per acre. The rents are paid at 4 terms in the years, partly in money and partly in meal; and the tenants are obliged to carry their farm-meal to Aberdeen, or the like diſtance. There are no diſcretionary ſervices exacted. The tenants are in their tacks taken bound for a few ſervices; one half of which are ſeldom required, and no money demanded for thoſe that are not. The people are fond of the country, ſeldom leave it; and, when they do, with great reluctance, returning as ſoon as they can.

Population Table.

Number of ſouls in 1755	786	Annual average of marriages, ditto	3
In the pariſh (excluſive of the lands of Corſe) in 1791	304	Seceders	36
Males	163	Roman Catholic	1
Females	141	Smiths	2
On the lands of Corſe	267	Wrights	6
Males	126	Shoemakers	4
Females	141	Weavers	4
Total in the two diſtricts	571	Wheel-wrights	1
Males	289	Taylors	3
Females	282	Heritors	2
Annual average of births from 1769 to 1781	20	Valued rent of the pariſh in Scotch money	L. 1598 : 13 : 4
——— of marriages, ditto	5½	Of the lands of Corſe, ditto	L. 432 : 4 : 6
——— of births from 1781 to 1792	15		

The decreaſe in the number of inhabitants ſeems to be owing to the ſcarcity that prevailed in 1782 and 1783, and to the

the flourishing state of manufactures at Aberdeen, which draw off many people from this and the neighbouring parishes.

Manufactures.——The knitting of worsted stockings is the principal manufacture of this parish. It is carried on by almost all the women, by many boys, and several old men. —Different manufacturers from Aberdeen bring out wool, and give the people from 1s. to 3s. for spinning the wool and knitting the stockings. It is generally believed that this employment is too sedentary, and, of consequence, considered as unhealthy:—but it is not so sedentary in this parish as it is in other places; for the people can, and do very frequently, walk 6 or 8 miles a-day without hindering the work; and thus sometimes associate with bad company of both sexes, which tends to corrupt their morals. As the women are constantly employed in this manufacture, scarce any of them can spin flax, and they are obliged to buy their linen cloth. This discourages the sowing of flax; the spinning of which would be more advantageous to the women, and keep them from idly, and often viciously, wandering about. The soil here is much adapted for raising that useful crop, which seldom or never fails to be a good one. The tenants now begin to sow a little of it, which answers well; but, as there is not a lint-mill in the country, they are obliged to carry the flax 8 or 9 miles to a mill, and pay 1s. 6d. for dressing 16 lb. besides drawing and preparing it for the roller.

Farm-Houses, Ploughs, and Carts.——The houses and offices of the tenants are indeed very poor; though the heritors bind themselves, at their removal, for the walls of their houses, if built of mason work, and also for the roof. They are generally built of dry stone, and covered with turf. If the tenants built better houses, and went neat and clean, they would

would become more induſtrious, and keep a better table.——There are in the pariſh and lands of Corſe 44 ploughs; greateſt part of them drawn by oxen, from 4 to 12 to a plough. The crofters yoke their cows and young cattle in the plough. There are now 53 carts in the whole diſtrict: in 1772, there were only 4, of which the miniſter had two.

Black-Cattle, Horſes, and Sheep.—According to the beſt information, there ſeem to be in the pariſh and lands of Corſe from 750 to 800 black-cattle, 1300 ſheep, 140 horſes of a ſmall ſize, and about 30 or 40 ſwine. About 200 cattle are ſold annually, either in the country to graziers, or to dealers in the ſouthern counties. A great many horſes, within theſe 8 years paſt, have been carried to the ſouth; and ſold there from L. 3 to L. 10 each. The oxen commonly give from L. 3 to L. 6; —ſheep from 5s. to 10s.—and ſwine from 20s. to 40s. each*.

* The language ſpoken in this pariſh is Engliſh, or rather a particular dialect of the Scottiſh, called the Aberdeenſhire dialect. No Gaelic is ſpoken here, or nearer than Tullich and Corgars, about 15 Engliſh miles diſtant; though it ſeems to have been formerly the language of this country, the names of ſeveral places being evidently derived from it; thus, Craigivar, or *Creg-a-Mharr*, the "rock of Mar;" Tullieorn, or *Tullich-eorna*, the "barley hill;" Cnockannach, or *Cnoc-Choinneach*, "Kenneth's hillock, or know," &c.——The inhabitants, ſince 1745, are much civilized, and little diſpoſed to quarrelling. In general, they are peaceable and well-behaved; not addicted to drinking, which may account for there not being a public-houſe in the pariſh. The people have no military turn, and when any of them enliſt in the army, they return as ſoon as they can get their diſcharge.——The men dreſs plainly in ſhort clothes and breeches of home-ſpun cloth, with tartan or ſhepherds plaids.——The women appear at church as decently dreſſed as their circumſtances will permit, in tartan plaids and duffle cloaks.

Wrights wages are from 10d. to 1s. per day, without victuals, and from 6d to 8d. a pay with victuals. Taylors, with victuals, from 4d. to 6d. per day. Servants are very ſcarce; and their fees double what they were 20 years ago.

Day-labourers

Exports, Woods, Fuel, and Roads.——The pariſh annually, at an average, ſends to Aberdeen, or to the interior parts of the country, from 600 to 800 bolls of oat-meal, and from 200 to 300 bolls of bear, except in bad ſeaſons, when the crops are deficient.

Around the caſtle of Craigivar, there are plenty of good old aſh and plane trees, about 200 acres of excellent thriving wood, conſiſting of oak, birch, Scotch pine, ſpruce and larix firs; but there are no other trees in the pariſh, except ſome hard wood in the tenants yards, ſome full grown aſh and plane trees around the caſtle of Corſe, and, hard by it, a ſmall plantation of birch and fir.

There is no peat in the pariſh, except the lands of Corſe, ſo that the inhabitants are but very poorly provided with fire. They are ſupplied with turf and heather from the muirs, and a ſort of green ſods, called *plouds*, which they caſt in the exhauſted moſſes. Some bring black peat from a great diſtance for drying their grain. Were the coal-duty removed, it would be a great mean of redreſſing this grievance.

The public roads are made and repaired by the ſtatute-labour Every man, from 15 to 60 years of age, is obliged to work 3 days in ſummer, and 3 in autumn, or to pay 1s. 6d. for the whole yearly labour. The roads, as yet, are poorly made.

Day-labourers for huſbandry get from 8d. to 10d. per day without victuals, and with victuals, from 4d. to 6d. Mens wages for the year are from L.2:10 to L. 7: womens wages for the year from 40s. to 50s. Harveſt wages for the men, from 26s. to 32s.—and to the women from 15s. to 20s. each.——Meal generally ſells from 10s. to 16s.—bear from 13s. 4d. to 18s.—oats from 8s. to 15s.—peaſe from 10s. to 15s.—and wheat from 15s. to 20s. per boll:—cheeſe from 4s. to 6s. per ſtone, 26 lb. Amſterdam to the ſtone:—beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork, from 2d. halfpenny to 4d. per lb—geeſe from 2s. to 2s. 6d. each;—hens from 6d. to 9d. each;—chickens from 2d. to 2d. halfpenny each—butter from 6d. to 9d. per lb. 26 oz. Amſterdam.

made. If every man would pay the compoſition-money, and men were hired with a proper overſeer, the roads would be much more ſufficiently done.

Church, School, and Poor.—The church is old, and in bad repair. Sir William Forbes of Craigivar is patron. The manſe was repaired and enlarged in 1767, and is a commodious ſmall houſe. The ſtipend is 32 bolls of meal, at 8 ſtones per boll; 16 bolls of bear; L.31 : 2 : 2$\frac{8}{12}$ ſterling of money; beſides 50 merks Scotch, and ſmall ſervices, valued at other 50 merks, paid by the tenants of Corſe, for ſerving that cure. The glebe, though not legal, is a piece of the beſt ground in the pariſh.

The Seceſſion began here about 36 years ago, owing to the reformation of church-muſic in a neighbouring pariſh. There is a very good ſtated Seceder kirk in the end of this pariſh, and a manſe near it. The miniſter's ſtipend is L. 40 ſterling, made up from the ſeat-rents and collections. The congregation ſeems to be upon the decline. The miniſter is a ſenſible man, and his hearers quiet and inoffenſive. Such of them as belong to this pariſh get aid from the poor's funds in the ſame manner as the poor of the Eſtabliſhed church do.

There is a good ſchool-houſe here, but no garden for the ſchoolmaſter. His ſalary is only 100 merks Scotch; his perquiſites, college-fees, and ſeſſion-clerk's fee, ſcarcely amount to L. 6 ſterling yearly.

The poor's funds amount to about L. 40 ſterling; beſides 1000 merks Scotch, mortified by Sir John Forbes of Craigivar's lady, and which, by the will of the mortifier, muſt remain in the hands of that family; but the intereſt of it is regularly paid to the kirk-ſeſſion in meal, and divided among the poor in the lands of Craigivar and Corſe. The weekly collections, with what is got about a communion time, do not exceed L. 3 : 10 ſterling *per annum*. The poor have no other funds, except penalties, and a very ſmall rent for the poor's loft.

There are 12 poor families who occasionally get supply; and a common beggar is scarcely known in the parish. Rather than beg, the people would live in great misery at home: but the parish is much distressed with strolling importunate strangers.

In 1782 and 1783, the crops were fully as good as in many other parishes, though there certainly was a great deficiency. Besides the Government supply to the poor, the kirk session, with the approbation of the heritors, bought a good deal of meal, gave of it *gratis* to the poor, and sold it at a reduced price to others. By this means, the poor's funds were greatly diminished; but, happily, none perished for want. The heritors were at pains to procure good seed for their tenants, who have not yet recovered the loss of those bad years *.

Eminent

* There are three castles in the parish. 1st, The castle of Corse, now in ruins; built in 1581 by William Forbes, father of Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen. Tradition bears, and the common people still believe, that the Devil visited the Bishop in this castle; that they differed; and that the Devil, on his departure, carried away with him the broad side of the castle; on the stone-stairs whereof, they still pretend to point out his footsteps.——2d, The castle of Craigivar; which, as is imagined, was begun in the beginning of the 17th century by Roger Mortimer, then of Craigivar. He only built it half way up, which, it is said, hurt his circumstances; and he sold his estate to Mr William Forbes, brother to Bishop Forbes of Corse, who finished the castle in a very elegant manner, according to the fashion of the times, in the year 1626. It is seven stories; two of which are vaulted. Though not at present inhabited, Sir William Forbes keeps it in good repair.——3d, The castle of Lenturk, now in ruins, is supposed to be older than either of the other two. It appears to have been built early in the 16th century. It has a large deep broad foss around it; and, in those days, has been a place of strength. It has been probably built by —— Strachan of Lenturk; who, in the reign of James V. very unjustly accused John, master of Forbes, of high treason, which, though not proven, made him lose his head. Tradition bears, that in July 1645, William Forbes of Skellater, having no good will to —— Irvine, then laird of Lenturk, came down hither from Strathdon with his men; shut the laird up in the castle prison; lived at large in the castle, and on the estate, till the morning

Eminent Men.—None have made any respectable figure, either in learning or eminence, except the Forbes's of Corse. Patrick Forbes, 5th laird of Corse, was elected Bishop of Aberdeen in 1618, and died in 1635. His son, Dr John Forbes of Corse, a man of great learning and abilities, filled the chair of Divinity Professor at King's College, Aberdeen, till he was expelled by the Covenanters. Of three younger brothers of the Bishop, one having acquired a large fortune at Dantzig, purchased the lands of Craigivar and Fintray, and was ancestor of the present Sir William Forbes of Craigivar; another died minister of Delft in Holland, and was father of Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen; and a third, having made a considerable fortune in Ireland, was progenitor of the Earls of Granard, in that kingdom.

NUMBER

morning the battle of Alford, when he went and joined Montrose against the Covenanters, who got a total defeat.

In this parish there are nine large tumuli or cairns; without any broad flat stones on the top, but some of them are hinged round with large stones; and have the remains of Druidical temples hard by them. Some of these temples are composed of two and three circles of erect stones. There have been more cairns in the parish, which have been removed for building houses and fold-dykes. Where they stood, there still remain visible stone coffins, where urns have no doubt been dug up. A few years ago, human bones were found in one of the largest cairns upon the estate of Lenturk, a good way from the bottom, without any stone coffin enclosing them. The stones of all the cairns are in general very small.——On the brow of the hill of Corse, nearly opposite to the castle, there is in a rock a small natural cave, called the *Laird's hiding-hole*; and said to be the place where Dr Forbes of Corse frequently concealed himself during the troublesome times of the Covenanters.

On the top of the hill of Corse there are two or three long trenches, supposed to be the camp or fortification of Malcolm or Macbeth; and near this there are a great number of small tumuli, now overgrown with short heath, which may be the repositories of those killed in battle at that time. At a small distance from these, and on the same hill, it is said Macduff killed Macbeth; where there is a large cairn, still called *Macbeth's-cairn*; and in which, a great many years ago, some old arms were found.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF TARLAND.

(PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O' NIEL, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM MAITLAND.

Name and Stipend.

TARLAND is, perhaps, one of the moſt disjoined and diſcontiguous charges in Scotland. It conſiſts of two pariſhes united into one charge. It is evident, however, that in Popiſh times, they have been different charges, and the reſidence of different clergymen, as there is a farm adjacent to one of the churches, which is called *Pittentaggart;* a word, which in the Celtic, ſignifies the Prieſt's Croft; and a part of that farm is ſtill occupied by the miniſter of the united charge, or his ſubtenant, as glebe. The names of the two pariſhes are Tarland and Migvy. The churches are diſtant from each other about 2 Scotch miles; and the miniſter preaches two Sundays at Tarland, and the third at Migvy, by regular rotation, both ſummer and winter. With regard to the origin or etymology of the names, Tarland is a corruption of a Celtic word, ſignifying the flat plain, which agrees perfectly well with its ſituation.——The miniſter's reſidence is at Tarland; where he has

a manſe and glebe of about 4 acres, ſome of it very good, and ſome of it very poor and ſandy, but no graſs nor any allowance for it. His other glebe, mentioned above as part of the Prieſt's Croft, adjacent to Migvy, is of about 3 acres; which, with a houſe and ſmall yard, rents at L. 1 : 13 : 4 ſterling yearly. The ſtipend of both pariſhes was modified, *anno* 1748, to 700 merks money; 35 bolls meal, at 8 ſtone per boll; and 13 bolls bear; with L. 40 Scotch for communion elements. The Crown is patron. The church and manſe of Tarland are ſituated in a ſmall village almoſt on the S. W. border of the diſtrict, having the whole of that part of the pariſh, which lies in Cromar, to the N. and N. E. of the church *.

Villages.—The village of Tarland, conſiſting of upwards of 40 houſes, and containing 150 ſouls, ſituated in the center of Cromar, is a burgh of barony; has a weekly market on Wedneſday, and three larger, and three leſſer yearly markets, to which there is a great reſort from all the country for ſeveral miles round, and at which the moſt important commercial buſineſs of the country is tranſacted. In theſe markets, meal is ſold by meaſure, though in all other bargains, relating to that article, it is ſold by weight, at 9 ſtone to the boll. Theſe markets are always attended by two or three notaries or meſſengers, who, by attention and good management, have within theſe 30 years paſt, cleared ſome thouſand pounds from the country. In the village, there are 4 merchants, who keep open ſhops every day; an inn, with good accommodation for travellers, beſides 3 or 4 licenſed alehouſes; 1 ſhoemaker; 1 butcher; 1 ſadler; 1 dyer; 1 houſe-carpenter; 2 mantua-makers,

* Cromar is a diviſion of Mar, in Aberdeenſhire, and comprehends in it the pariſh of Coul in the E. end, the pariſhes of Tarland and Migvy, of Coldſtone and Logy, and part of the pariſh of Tullich, in the middle and W. end of it.

makers, who also teach white seam; 1 gardener; 1 black-smith and ferrier; 1 wheel-wright; and 2 or 3 carriers. Here the Earl of Aberdeen, the proprietor, has a granary for the reception of his victual rents; of which he has 600 bolls meal payable yearly from his estates in this and the neighbouring parishes. In all these markets, besides wood and materials for all kinds of labouring utensils, all kinds of merchant goods, and things necessary for country consumpt, are exposed to sale. In the month of February, there is a market for horses; in May, there is one for sheep; the week after that, one for cows; and in November, one for cattle, which continues two days.

Extent and Form.—To describe the extent and form of the parish of Tarland is very difficult. That part of it, which lies in Cromar, may be about 2 Scotch miles in length, from N. E. to S. W. and about 1 in breadth, from N. to S. and is pretty contiguous. Passing N. W. through the parish of Coldstone, through the parish of Migvy, through part of Towie, then through Migvy again, and through Strathdon, at the distance of 8 to 12 miles from the parish church. A part of the parish of Tarland lies along the N. side of the river Don, of between 3 and 4 miles in length; and in one glen, called Glenernon, from the water Ernon which runs through it, about 2 miles in breadth. This part of the parish of Tarland is under the inspection of a missionary minister, whose salary is paid from the royal bounty, and who performs all the parts of the ministerial office among the inhabitants of it; so that the minister of Tarland has little or no intercourse with them; and can give no account of their numbers, births, deaths, or other particulars, which are the objects of enquiry under consideration. The missionary minister is the proper person to give information of that corner. It is said, that this distant part of the parish of Tarland

Tarland had been of old, (when the country was leſs populous, and leſs cultivated), ſhealing places, belonging to the proprietors of ground in Cromar; and that, as they came to be more cultivated, they had been ſold off as property, which, after changing ſeveral maſters, has fallen into the hands of the preſent 4 different heritors, each of whom has property alſo in the pariſh of Strathdon.

The pariſh of Migvy is alſo very diſcontiguous. Part of it lies in Cromar, disjoined from Tarland by a part of the pariſh of Coldſtone, which ſurrounds it on the weſt, ſouth, and eaſt ſides, and comes within ¼ of an Engliſh mile to Tarland. On the N. it is bounded by a tract of hills, which divides it from Towie. There was a new church built at Migvy about 3 or 4 years ago, at the diſtance of about 1 Scotch mile from the centrical church of Logy Coldſtone, which lies to the S. of it. This part of Migvy pariſh may be about 2 miles in length, from N. W. to S. E. and about 1 mile from N. to S. the church bordering upon the N. W. corner. Paſſing from this part of the pariſh, over a ridge of mountains, N. W. by W. through the pariſh of Coldſtone, or N. W. by N. through the pariſh of Towie, into a glen, there is a part of the pariſh of Migvy on the N. ſide of the water of Deſkry, which runs through that glen, of 2 Scotch miles in length, and perhaps about ¼ mile in breadth, from N. to S. At the N. W. end of this glen, the pariſh of Migvy lies on both ſides of the water, where it runs into Don. From this account of the form and extent of the pariſhes, it will appear that a new diviſion of pariſhes might be attended with great advantage; and, it is believed, that many other pariſhes in Scotland will afford ample ground for the ſame remark.——That part of the pariſh of Tarland, which lies in Cromar, is divided from Cuſhny on the N. by a track of high and barren mountains: of which there is a tradition, that the freebooters, who in more lawleſs times frequented

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theſe hills, when they came from the uncivilized parts of Lochaber, &c. for the ſake of plundering cattle, declared them to be the coldeſt hills in Scotland; and the aſſertion appears to be not ill-founded.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The lands about the village of Tarland are moſtly flat and level; a great part of them is liable to be overflown with water. There is a level between Tarland and Coul 2 Engliſh miles in length, and from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in breadth, where it is ſaid there is not ſix feet of deſcent from the one end to the other. In September 1768, the whole of this level was under water. The ſoil in this level is generally good and fertile: the other parts of the pariſh are more uneven, and the ſoil various; tho' the whole would be capable of great improvement, if proper means were within reach, but theſe are wanting. The tenants are not able to incloſe; lime is not to be got, but at an expence which they cannot afford; there is no command of water in moſt places where it would be moſt uſeful. The ſame things may be ſaid of the lands in that part of the pariſh of Migvy, which lies in Cromar: the ſoil on Deſkry ſide is generally thin, and the crops often late, and liable to be hurt by froſts and mildews. The country is mountainous and cold. Over the whole of both pariſhes the air is dry and healthy; and, among the inhabitants, there are no diſtempers peculiar to the climate. Nervous and rheumatic complaints are more common than they were 30 or 40 years ago; owing in part, at leaſt, to the different mode of living, which is more generous, and to the uſe of ſpirituous liquors among the males, and of tea among the females; both of which are drunk in much greater quantities now, than in the days of our fathers.

Rivers and Hills.—In the pariſh of Tarland, a rivulet runs by

by the village, which takes its rife from the fprings in the mountains to the N. and N. W. In fummer, this ftream is very fmall, and hardly affords water enough to work the mills that depend upon it; but in winter, it is full of water, and by heavy fhowers often overflows its banks, and lays a great part of the lands in the before-mentioned level under water, to the great hurt of the crops both of corn and grafs. The fame may be faid of the water of Defkry, over which is a ftone bridge of one arch built, at Rippachy, on the highway from Strathdon to Aberdeen, and by which travellers pafs by another public road to Tarland, and through Cromar. Both thefe afford no other fifh but trout, which, though fmall, is exceeding good. The river Don, which runs along that part of the parifh of Tarland in Strathdon, being there near its fource, is but fmall in fummer. It abounds with fine trouts, and fometimes falmon are found in it, as far up as Strathdon. The mountains all over the country are generally covered with heath, and afford pretty good pafturage for fheep, and in fome places for young cattle. They abound with moorfowl, plover, dottrel, foxes, hares, and other game: the common quadrupeds in the parifh are horfes, black-cattle, fheep, and fome hogs.

Population.—With regard to the population of the parifhes, no diftinct account can be given, as no regifter of births, deaths, or marriages has ever been, or can be exactly kept in them, owing to the diftance of feveral parts of the united charge to the place of the minifter's refidence. The people of Migvy or Defkry-fide attend religious ordinances at the church of Towie, and get their children baptifed there, as being nearer to them than Tarland. They never think of feeking to get a child's name entered into the parifh regifter; thofe of Tarland parifh, in Strathdon, are in the fame predicament. As to

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that part of Tarland and Migvy immediately under the minister's inspection, and on Deskry-side, where he catechises regularly every year, the number of souls can be ascertained very exactly. In the year 1768, in these bounds, the numbers were 826 above 7 years of age, and 101 below 7;—total 927. From that time to 1791, the numbers have been fluctuating, but upon the whole decreasing. In 1791, the numbers in the same bounds were, 688 above 7, and 118 below 7;—total 806. The occasion of this decrease may be, that many families, upon being reduced in their circumstances, remove to towns, where, from the improvements that are carrying on, in agriculture, manufactures, &c. they get work and wages in proportion to their strength and capacity; and, by these means, make a shift to live much better than they could have done by continuing in their former situation. Within these 14 or 16 years past, many numerous families have gone from Tarland to Aberdeen. —Some individuals have reached the age of 80, or it be may a little above that, but none have exceeded 90 since 1767. Of 806, the total number *anno* 1791, 400 are males, and 406 females. Of the whole, there may be under 10 years of age, about 180; from 10 to 20, about 170; from 20 to 50, about 310; from 50 to 70, about 130; and from 70 to 90, about 16, as nearly as can be guessed. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, from the whole united parishes, was 1300 souls.

Farms, Agriculture, &c.——In the parishes of Tarland and Migvy, exclusive of that part of Tarland in Strathdon, there may be about 50 or 54 farms; some of larger and some of lesser extent; some possessed by one, and others by two tenants, each of whom have from 2 to 3, and some 4 or 5 subtenants; and about a dozen of smaller possessions occupied only by one tenant. The number of horses and cattle upon these farms is various, according to the abilities of the farmer; some

ſome have 3, ſome 4 horſes, with ſome 8, ſome 10, and ſome 12 oxen, for their ploughs; and ſome 2, ſome 3, and ſome 4 cows, with their calves of one and two years old. Some have 2, others 3, and ſome 4 or 5 ſcore of ſheep upon a farm. The ſubtenants keep a horſe and a cow. The general value of the ordinary horſes are from L. 5 to L. 12, and ſome few to L. 14 or L. 15 ſterling. The common ſizes of cattle are worth, from 3 years old and upwards, L. 3, L. 4, L. 6, and ſometimes L. 7 ſterling; cows from L. 2 : 10 to L. 6: ſheep are generally worth, wedders from 10s. to 15s. ewes and lambs of the country breed from 4s. to 8s. and lambs from 2s. 6d. to 4s.——The farmers in this country, in general, are obliged to ſend their labouring cattle away, about the end of May, for ſummer grazing, to glens at the diſtance of 30 or 40 miles, from whence they do not return till about the end of Auguſt; and many of them muſt ſend their ſheep, at leaſt their wedders, to diſtant paſtures for the ſummer ſeaſon too. This is a great draw-back upon the improvement of their farms, as beſides the expence of paying for graſs, which within theſe dozen of years has riſen from 2s. to 8s. a head for cattle, they loſe the benefit of their dung for 3 months. Another great inconvenience they have to ſtruggle with in ſummer, is the difficulty of getting ſervants, which is owing to the following practice that has prevailed for ſome years back:—a great number of able-bodied winter-ſervants engage to go out of the country in ſummer, for building dykes and encloſures to thoſe gentlemen who are carrying on improvements in the ſouth country; and by theſe means they make double, ſometimes triple, the wages in the ſummer half year that they could get or expect by engaging with a farmer at home. The Dyker, as he is called, gets from L. 2 to L. 3 ſterling, and ſometimes more, for 3 months in ſummer; then he returns home, and gets 25s. or 30s. perhaps 35s. for harveſt work, and from harveſt, if it is early, to Martinmas, ſome will

make

make from 8s. to 12s. By this practice, the farmer in Cromar has much ado to get servants in summer, sufficient for preparing and leading home his year's provision of fuel for fire, which consists of peats and turf: to lay in a proper quantity of these takes up most of the time from Whitsunday to harvest. —Some of the farmers are beginning to raise turnips and potatoes, and to lay down sown grass; but for want of inclosures and winter herding, which is abhorred by the generality in this corner, it is impossible that any progress can be made in these improvements.

Manufactures.—The only branches of manufacture in this country are the spinning linen yarn, and knitting hose. The dealers in these manufactures have a number of stations in the village of Tarland, and over the whole neighbouring country, where lint and wool are given out, and yarn and stockings taken in, the yarn, at from 10d. to 15d. per spindle, and stockings at from 1s. to 2s. 6d. for spinning and knitting the pair, in proportion to the different qualities of the respective articles. These bring a great deal of money into the country; by which the greatest part of the poorer families are supported, and enabled to pay the rents of their houses and small crofts of land. But the females, who sit from their childhood at the stocking or little wheel, are generally valetudinary, and commonly can do nothing at any other labour; and, when these works bring tolerable prices, it is difficult for those that need them to get female servants.

Productions and Rent.—The parishes of Tarland and Migvy produce a great deal more grain and victual than is necessary for their own consumpt; and considerable quantities of meal and bear are annually carried to Aberdeen, or disposed of to supply the neighbouring Highland districts, where the meal

meal is needed for the ſupport of the inhabitants, and the bear made into bear and whiſky. The times of ſowing and reaping are variable, as the ſeaſon anſwers. The harveſt in Cromar, and particularly about Tarland, is generally as early as in any corner of the county of Aberdeen.—Some of the farmers in the pariſh pay from L.40 to L.50 ſter. of rent; others from L.30 to L. 40; and ſome not above L. 20 or L.25, including money, farm meal and bear, ceſs, and other public burdens; and, when calculated, the ſingle acre may be worth, out-field from 3s. to 5s. and in-town from 16s. to 20s. and ſome of it 25s. according to the nature of the ſoil.———In the whole united pariſhes of Tarland and Migvy, there are 13 heritors; of whom, 6 have property in the pariſh of Tarland, and 7 in the pariſh of Migvy: of all theſe, only 2 in Strathdon reſide within the pariſh. The valued rent of Tarland is L.1806:3:6, and of Migvy L. 1265:6:8 Scotch*.

Miſcellaneous

* The prices of proviſions are various. Beef, mutton, and pork, from 2d. to 4d. per lb. geeſe from 2s. to 2s 6d each; ducks from 6d. to 10d. each; hens the ſame; chickens from 1d. to 2d. each. Butter, freſh, from 5d. to 8d. per lb. of 28 oz.—when ſalted, from 8d. to 11d. Cheeſe from 4s. to 6s. per ſtone, 16 lb. to the ſtone, and 28 oz. to the lb. Eggs from 2d. to 3d. per dozen. Oats from 12s to 20s. and bear from 12s to 24s per boll, with a peck to each boll; and when grain of any kind is ſold with the ſtraw, by the uniform practice of the country, the purchaſer has the proof, which is the twentieth part of the ſtock, and a peck to each boll; theſe are called the Charities. And here it may be obſerved, that as there are very different qualities of grain, the ſelling it by the meaſure is not at all a fair medium of commerce; becauſe the ſame price is exacted for grain that weighs no more than 18 or 19 ſtone per boll, as for other grain that will weigh 20 or 22 ſtone. ———It might be of advantage to the public in general, if a certain weight was eſtabliſhed for the boll, then the purchaſer would always have nearly the ſame value for his money.——The wages of ſervants are, men, from L.1:10 to L. 3.—A woman, from 20s to 25s. the half year.—Day labourers, from 6d. to 8d. and in harveſt, 10d. a day, beſides victuals.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The number of poor who receive ſupport from the pariſh funds may be from 16 to 20. There are no funds or mortifications for their ſupport, but the daily collections in the churches, which may, at an average, amount to 20d. or 2s. every ſabbath, excluſive of the collections on a communion occaſion, which commonly amount to about L. 3 ſterling.——There is nothing remarkable in the characters or diſpoſitions of the people. They are generally of the ordinary ſize; and not at all deficient in hoſpitality.—Carts are pretty generally uſed both in huſbandry and by carriers.——Tarland, it is believed, would be a very proper place for a linen manufacture, as there is good accommodation for a bleachfield, the water being very ſoft, and fit for bleaching; and now that there is a lint-mill erected by the Earl of Aboyne in the neighbouring pariſh of Coul, there is a ſort of ſpirit for raiſing lint beginning to appear among the inhabitants of Cromar; and, if this was encouraged, it might be of great advantage to the country. It might alſo be of ſervice, to have a public diſtillery erected at or near Tarland, as the country yields a great deal of good bear, weighing from 18 to 22 ſtone per boll. But as there are no reſiding heritors in the country, little attention is paid to the benefit or improvement of it.——By the ſtatute-labour, which is exacted in kind, the roads in the pariſh are put and kept in pretty good repair.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF KINNAIRD.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. DAVID SPENCE.

Name and Extent.

THE name of the parish is compounded of two Celtic words, which signify *high end* or *head*. It may have got this name (as most Celtic names of places are descriptive) from the raised situation of the village, or castle of Kinnaird, which stands higher than the village, a little on the north side of it; and commands an extensive and beautiful prospect to the S. of the Carse of Gowrie, bounded by the river Tay, and the north hills of Fife.—The barony lands of Kinnaird belonged originally to the noble family of that name, by a grant from one of the kings of Scotland; and from them they derived their name and title, though no part is now in their possession.—The castle bears the marks of considerable antiquity; and is said by the country people to be between 500 and 600 years old. Great part of it appears to be entirely demolished; but so much remains as shews that it has been designed for defence; and was formerly a place of very considerable strength,

like many others in Scotland, during the prevalence of the feudal inſtitutions, when the chieftains, ſupported by their dependants, lived in a ſtate of almoſt conſtant hoſtility with each other.

The pariſh is ſituated in what is called the Carſe braes, about midway between Perth and Dundee; extends about 2 miles E. and W. and 3 S. and N. comprehending the waſte and uninhabited hilly lands.

Soil and Climate.—The ſmalleſt, but richeſt part of the pariſh, lies in the Carſe of Gowrie; well known for the ſtrength and fertility of its ſoil. On the ſouth ſide of the Carſe braes, the ſoil is a mixture, in different proportions, of black earth, and what is called mortar, perhaps from its cementing quality, which makes it fit to be uſed in building. It is not ſo rich and ſtrong as the Carſe clay or black earth, but produces crops of all the different grain ſold in the Carſe; though not ſo luxuriant, yet of ſuch good quality, that the farmers can diſpoſe of them at nearly the ſame price. The north ſide of the braes, not only the climate, but the ſoil, light and ſhallow, render leſs fit for cultivation. It is moſtly bent and heath, intermixed, however, with fields of good natural paſture; which, divided at a ſmall rent, among tenants who have farms on the ſouth ſide, enables them to rear a greater number of cattle than they could otherwiſe have done, the yearly ſale of which aſſiſts them to pay the higher rents at which they have their corn farms.

The air of the Carſe and Carſe hills is rather moiſt; from which, it might be thought, unhealthy, and that rheumatiſms, agues, and conſumptions, would be the prevailing diſtempers. They are, however, by no means ſo prevalent as formerly; owing no doubt, in a great meaſure, to the progreſs of improvement by draining, which continues to be carried

on

on with ſpirit; and by which, beſides promoting health, rich corn fields are got from marſhy ground that yielded nothing before but graſs of the coarſeſt quality. Now, the people in general are healthy and long lived. In this ſmall pariſh, within 6 or 7 years paſt, ſeveral who had always reſided in it died between 70 and 90 years old; and there are now living in it a man and a woman at the advanced age of between 90 and 100.

Population.—The population of the pariſh has been gradually decreaſing for many years paſt; owing in a great meaſure to the monopolizing of farms; 10 or 12 ſmall farms, which ſupported as many families, having been at different times added to larger ones, in the cultivation of which the farmers employ not cottagers, but young unmarried men. The return to Dr Webſter in 1755, however, was only 290 ſouls. The preſent ſtate is as follows:

Number of inhabitants 31ſt December 1790	404*	Inhabited houſes	90
		Heritors (non-reſident)	2
Males - -	206	Annual average of births, for 6 years preceding	
Females - -	198		
Under 10 -	83	1742 -	19
From 10 to 20 -	87	——— preceding	
—— 20 to 50 - -	157	1758 -	16
—— 50 to 70 -	63	——— preceding	
—— 70 to 90 - -	12	1773 -	11
—— 90 to 100 -	2	——— preceding	
Married - -	152	1789 -	10½
Widowers and widows	24	Annual average of deaths from 1780 to 1790	7
Farmers ſervants -	88		
Weavers -	44		

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* Only one family in the pariſh, and an individual of another, are Seceders.

The number of farms in the parish has been reduced, within these 50 or 60 years past, nearly one-half. There are in it at present about 14 farmers; but 4 or 5 of these have very small farms, on which a family can hardly subsist without some other occupation. The largest farms do not exceed 130 acres of good arable land: besides these, there are between 50 and 60 acres of good ground parcelled out among the trades people in the different villages, to enable them to keep cows for the use of their families, and one horse each, for labouring jointly their farms, and carrying the commodities they have for sale to the neighbouring market towns. The number of household and labouring servants, chiefly the latter, employed by the farmers, exclusive of their children, is 88; that of artificers, 57, of whom 44 are weavers, who not only work for the inhabitants of the parish, and others who may employ them, but also manufacture for sale, a great deal chiefly of what they call Harn, and coarse packing cloth, for which they find a ready market in the town of Dundee.

Natural Productions, &c.—The productions, mode of cultivation, times of sowing and reaping, and price of grain, are the same in this as in the neighbouring parishes, particularly that of Kilspindy, accounts of which have been already published. The method of dividing farms into 6 parts is generally practised. The best crops of wheat, both for quantity and quality, are from land well prepared by summer fallowing and liming, which always compensate the farmer for his trouble, expence, and the loss of one crop. After fallow, wheat, pease, and beans are sown, and for the most part ploughed down as early in spring as the weather will permit; after this, barley with clover grass seed is sown; and good grass seldom fails to be succeeded by a luxuriant crop of oats. The small quantities of flax, potatoes, and turnip, raised in the parish, come in under

der different divifions of farms, according to the particular ftate of the lands. There are more than 1000 acres of good land fit for raifing, in proper fucceffion, the crops above-mentioned; befides moor and hill pafture, and grounds on the fouth fide of the hill, which, though of good foil, are inacceffible to the plough. Thefe the proprietor is now very properly employed in planting with trees, particularly firs of different kinds, which will probably, in a few years, cover the only barren profpect of the parifh from the Carfe, and be an ornament to the whole country.

Situation of Farmers.—The farmers in general are intelligent and induftrious in their bufinefs, and therefore profperous and contented. The rapid progrefs of improvement in this place, for upwards of 30 years paft, has amazingly raifed the value of land; and enabled the proprietor, in every new leafe fince that period, confiderably to raife his rent, not only without prejudice to the tenant, but often for his intereft, by compelling him to vigorous exertion in improving his farm. Raifing rents will always have this effect, if it is done with difcretion, but when otherwife, it will have a quite contrary confequence; for when the tenant finds that, by his utmoft exertion, he cannot pay the rent and live with tolerable comfort, he will fit down in fullen defpair and do nothing. From the fudden and great rife in the value of land, proprietors are apt to entertain extravagant notions of its value, and to demand a price for it, not according to what it is known to have produced, even when laboured upon the beft plan of improvement yet difcovered, but according to their own chimerical profpect of what it may come to be worth, in confequence of farther improvement. Experience proves, that there is no demand, how extravagant foever, but the ignorance or vanity of fome will come up to; and the confequence often is, that the te-

nant

nant is ruined in a few years, and the landlord's great rental turns out to be nominal. Proprietors here, however, are attentive to the characters of tenants, as well as to the quality of their lands, of which they are in general very good judges; and accordingly let farms, at reaſonable rents, to ſuch as will labour them with ſkill and induſtry. The beſt land in this pariſh is let at, and ſome of it conſiderably below, L. 2 per acre; one excellent farm at little more than 30s. and a good brae farm at 25s. per acre Many farms in the Carſe are let higher, and ſome of them perhaps too high; but in general, they ſeem to be in a proper enough medium for encouraging induſtry and frugality, and ſtimulating the powers of ingenuity and invention; and tenants, who are intelligent in their buſineſs, and attentive to it, ſtill expect to pay the rent, and live comfortably, notwithſtanding the extravagant price of working horſes, and the high wages of labouring ſervants. Let not proprietors think, however, that they may ſtill go on ſwelling their rental at the granting of every new leaſe, they will not do that if they conſult their own intereſt, which muſt ever, in a great meaſure, depend on the virtue and proſperity of the tenantry.

The condition of the tenants in this, as well as in other pariſhes on the north of the Carſe, will be greatly meliorated by making good roads to the different ſhipping places along the banks of Tay. This great improvement Mr Allan of Errol has begun; and the ſeveral gentlemen in the neighbourhood are heartily diſpoſed to carry on a work, conducing ſo much to the benefit and comfort of the whole country; faciliating at all times a moſt uſeful communication which was before quite impracticable, at leaſt for loaded carts, during the greateſt part of the winter ſeaſon.—Farmers might alſo meliorate their own condition by attending, more than they generally do, to the breeding of horſes.—Every farmer of nearly 100 acres, rears annually

nually 10 or 12 black-cattle, in which he finds his advantage; but few make the rearing of horfes an object of equal attention, though, it is certain, they could breed them much more hardy and durable for work than foreign horfes are found to be, and at a third of expence at which they purchafe thefe horfes *.

Situation of Tradefmen.——The tradefmen in the parifh are in general induftrious and well employed; and it adds much to the comfort and health of the weavers efpecially, that along with their houfes, they have fo much good land divided among them, as enables them to keep cows and fmall horfes, and gives enough of wholefome exercife, without taking too much time and attention from their principal bufinefs. Their condition would be meliorated if the proprietors would divide the lands more equally among them, and prevent the poffibility of engroffing:—by this, envy and animofity would be prevented, and the peace and profperity of them all would be much promoted.

Stipend, School, and Poor.—The church was built in 1674, and the manfe in 1786. It was fo fuperficially executed, as already to need repair, as well as the church. The ftipend is 6 bolls of wheat; 30 bolls, 1 firlot, and 2 pecks of barley; 28

* Labouring fervants here have great encouragement. Their common wages are from L. 8 to L. 10; befides a fufficient allowance of milk and meal for their maintenance. Thofe who diftinguifh themfelves for fidelity and diligence in fervice often get more. With fuch wages they may not only live comfortably, but if they are virtuous and frugal, while young and in health, may provide for their fupport in a time of diftrefs, or when the infirmities of declining life unfit them for labour. Servants, who are faithful, attentive, and fober, are very much valued; and, befides their high wages, have fo many advantages from the voluntary attention of their mafters, that they are often able, after 10 or 12 years fervice, to ftock fmall farms for themfelves.

28 bolls of meal; and L. 37 : 10 sterling, in money; with a glebe of between 8 and 9 acres.

One of the poorest, though not surely the least useful man in the parish, is the schoolmaster:—to maintain a young rising family, the amount of all he can make, as schoolmaster and session-clerk, is between L. 11 and L. 12 sterling yearly. Many of his brethren in the country are in the same miserable situation; and cannot better their circumstances, but by following some business, inconsistent with proper attention to their schools *.

Seldom above 3 or 4 are on the poor's roll. The permanent fund for their support is but L. 50 sterling. The interest of that sum, however, with the weekly collections, has been found hitherto sufficient for the stated distributions, and also for occasional charities, sometimes well bestowed on honest industrious persons, who have been reduced by distress or unavoidable misfortunes, to enable them to proceed on their usual occupations.

General Character.—The different orders of people in this place are in general sober, honest, and industrious; and as their external circumstances, so their natural genius and temper, are favourable to tranquillity and contentment of mind. They

* If the prosperity of the state depends much on the piety and virtue of the commonality, and this again on early education, public spirited men should surely exert themselves to meliorate the condition of parochial schoolmasters, to enable them to give their whole attention to the education of youth. Many who know and feel for their extreme poverty, so pernicious to the general interest of education in the country, were sorry to hear of councils and deliberations solemnly held by gentlemen of landed property, in different parts of Scotland, as upon business of the last importance, only to baffle the petition of the poor schoolmasters for such an addition of their salaries as might enable them to live, without having recourse to any business foreign to their profession.

They are little ſuſceptible either of the pleaſures or pains which reſult from a lively imagination and delicate ſenſibility of temper; but though not remarkable for vivacity, they are judicious and diſcerning, eſpecially in farming; and a new practice, that is generally adopted in the Carſe, may be depended upon as a ſolid improvement. Their religion may be often tinctured with ſuperſtition, but is ſeldom heated with enthuſiaſm. If, where it is in truth, it is accompanied with little fervour, it however operates as a calm, rational, ſteady principle of wiſe and virtuous conduct.

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF KINTAIL.

(PRESBYTERY OF LOCHCARRON, SYNOD OF GLENELG, COUNTY OF ROSS.)

By the Rev. MR. RODERICK MORISON.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Kintail derives its origin from *Chean-dhahaal*, the "head of two salt water bays." An arm of the sea at Coalacin extends eastwardly till it meets the first point of land in Kintail: the arm in this place divides itself in such a manner that two-thirds takes a S. E. direction; and, after extending 3 miles, it terminates, and forms what is called Lochduich. The other division of the aforesaid arm, called Lochlong, has the some extent, and incloses the parish almost on the N. It also separates this district from Lochalsh. These two arms, environing the parish of Kintail, forms the habitable parts thereof into the figure of a deer's horn.

The extent of this parish is 13 miles long, from S. to N. including the grazings and hilly ground; and in general 6 computed miles broad. The parish is divided into 3 districts;—the side of Croe,—Glenelchaig,—and Glassletter. The last division, belonging to the Laird of Chisholm, consists chiefly of hill

hill pasture, which is reduced to ten separate grazings. Some of its possessors are connected with other parishes; and, as they retreat to their winter dwellings after harvest, their number cannot be minutely ascertained. The other divisions of the parish, belonging to Francis Humberstone M'Kenzie, Esq. of Seaforth, contain 840 souls.—The natives of the parish are all Mac Raes, except two or three families *.

Rivers, Hills, and Roads.—There are two rivers in this parish, the Loigh and the Croe, which arise in small rivulets in the mountains; the former runs into Lochlong, and the latter into Lochduich. Both these rivers were once famous for salmon; and the fishings were common to the inhabitants, till they were laid under strict prohibition, soon after 1745. Stills

 were

* The first man of the clan had, it is said, in his younger days, many difficulties to encounter, from which he with great dexterity extricated himself. His father, upon hearing the happy events attending his son, exclaimed, *Bhai mhac ragh aigh*, "He is the son of good fortune."——It is generally allowed that the Mac Rae's emigrated from the braes of Aird, on the Lovat estate, to this place, though what induced them to prefer the mountains to the plains, is not universally agreed upon, yet certain it is, that long after their residence in Kintail, they maintained a firm alliance with the Frasers of Aird. The tradition which prevails, that an inscription was set up nigh the entrance to Lovat house, bearing, "That no Mac Rae must lodge without, "when a Fraser resides within," is not wholly without foundation. When the Mac Raes first entered Kintail, there were several clans inhabiting it, particularly the Mac Aulays, of whom no vestige now remains. The Mac Lennans, a small tribe in the parish of Glensheal, were the only people that would not yield. These Mac Lennans, at the battle of Auldearn, were intrusted with Seaforth's colours; the novelty of the preferment roused them to action and stubborn resistance, which proved fatal to the clan, for many were slain; and their widows, 18 in number, were afterwards married to Mac Raes.——The boundaries, which divide the Mac Raes from the Mac Lennans, are marked by a river which runs into Lochduich; but common observation may easily trace a line of distinction from the difference in their language and accent.

were then eſtabliſhed; a novelty which the people did not reliſh; and ſome of them teſtified their diſapprobation of this abridgement of their privileges, by dragging the nets a-ſhore, and reprimanding the fiſhermen. They acted under the idea, that hunting and fiſhing were privileges handed down to them by their anceſtors; and that theſe immunities ought never to be monopolized nor wreſted from mankind.

Kintail is on every quarter ſurrounded with high hills; the moſt eminent is *Tulloch-ard*, which commands a view of many of the Hebride iſlands. This mountain claims particular attention, on account of the veneration it was held in antient times. Like the temple of Janus, it indicated peace or war: the voice of hoſtility was ſure to roar on its ſummit; for, when war commenced, a burning barrel of tar, on the higheſt ridge, was the ſignal; and all the vaſſals and tenants of Seaforth appeared next morning, armed *pro aris et focis*, at the caſtle of Donan, the uſual place of rendezvous *.——*Maam Tuirc*, or Boar Hill, is another high mountain to the eaſt of Tulloch-ard. It divides Glenelchaig from the ſide of Croe.

There are no ſtatute or military roads within the pariſh. Some remains of a road are to be ſeen along the ſhore of Lettercoil. This uſeful road was intended to be carried on along the north ſide of Lochduich; but the tenants, after much labour and trouble, deſerted it, probably for want of a proper fund to go forward. Till of late, the people of Kintail, as well as other Highlanders had a ſtrong averſion to roads. The more inacceſſible, the more ſecure, was their maxim.——But of all the roads leading to this place, none calls more for public attention than that of Afric or Belloch. This road is 13 computed

* This burning mount the family of Seaforth bears for their creſt. And thoſe who reliſh the muſic of the bagpipe, ſhew no little regard to the tune of Tulloch-ard, or Seaforth's gathering.

puted miles from Kilduich in Kintail, to Knoefin in Strathglafs. It is allowed to be the neareft communication between the E. and W. feas; and, though daily frequented by people from Sky and other places, to Invernefs and Dingwall, with heavy loads, there is no inn to accommodate travellers, except the booths of fhepherds, which in ftormy weather they frequently burn for feul.—Within 3 miles of Kintail, at a place called Belloch, is a high ridge of hills which environs this diftrict on the E. and would render it inacceffible from that quarter, if nature had not left a fmall gap in the mountain, as if it had been fawn down to the middle, which leaves room for 3 paffengers to go a-breaft. The afcent on the E. to the Belloch is about 100 yards in a zig-zag direction. The weftern afpect is truly fteep and vexatious: the intermediate fpace on the top is a quarter of a mile long, and 5 feet broad. The traveller finds himfelf, in paffing through this gut, inclofed with hills of rueful afpects, infpiring awe, and often quickening his pace *.

Character

* After the battle of Culloden, Lord George Sackville, entered Kintail by this road, driving cattle and plunder before him. Mr John M'Lean, the minifter of this parifh, appeared before his Lordfhip, to protect the Kintail men, (being at that time loyal fubjects), from unmerited infult; but, from the fimplicity of Mr M'Lean's drefs, his Lordfhip inferred impofition; and, feizing a loaded piftol, gave orders for his appearing inftantly before him with his library, that his opinion concerning his facred character might no longer remain in fufpenfe; otherwife he would fuffer for daring to infult him. This uncommon falutation, added to the natural trepidation of the venerable old man,—he made all poffible hafte to bring back a volume of Pool's Annotations, which convinced his Lordfhip, that the want of pontificial robes in the Highlands was no obftacle to veracity. This volume of Pool's Annotations is ftill within the precincts of the place; carefully laid up in the library of the minifter of Glenfheal, and preferved like the old Palladium of Troy.——Of all the travellers attempting the Afric road, none ever left fuch memorable traces behind him as Mr Rofs of Eafter Fern, who after the battle

Character of the People.—Within the mountains already deſcribed, one will naturally expect to find untoward aſpects, with aſperity of temper: this concluſion 40 years ago was truly inconteſtible, but the greateſt change has taken place of late years. The natives or Kintail are tall, robuſt, and well-limbed; able to endure much cold and fatigue; generous and hoſpitable; and if they are ſometimes peeviſh to ſtrangers, it is by reaſon of encroachments on their grazings and hill paſture. This peculiarly ariſes from their being wholly devoted to the paſtoral life, without intermeddling with any other branch of manufacture or trade. In the laſt century, or rather later, the inhabitants of Kintail wore nothing but the woolen manufactures of the place; but at preſent, every individual purchaſes linen, and affect as much neatneſs in dreſs as any of their neighbours. It is eaſy to remark, that their attachment to Seaforth

battle of Glenſheal, 1719, received a commiſſion from government to repair to Kintail with a ſelect body of men, to collect the rents of that place, in name of his majeſty. His intentions, however, were announced to the Kintail men, who aſſembled with great precipitation, and meeting Mr Roſs at a place called Lochan cloigh, 2 miles from Knocfin, a muſket was fired from the ſummit of a grove, hanging over a pond of water, the ball grazing ſlightly the back of Mr Roſs's neck, he diſmounted inſtantly, and replaced his ſon on his horſe. After this accident, he purſued his journey for 4 miles, till coming to a place which divides the hill road, called Doir no mearlach, a party at the foot of a ſpreading fir-tree, on the oppoſite bank of the river, fired and wounded Mr Roſs's ſon. This ſecond alarm ſo intimidated the troops, that Mr Roſs was eaſily perſuaded to offer terms of capitulation to the Kintail men, at that time commanded by a Colonel Murcheſon; a gentleman, whoſe natural parts qualified him for a higher ſtation.——Mr Roſs's ſon, young Walter, died of his wounds, on his way home, his body was carried on a litter to the priory of Beaulieu, and there interred.—After this fruitleſs expedition, another was attempted next year by the Lochcarron road, by a captain M' Neal, whoſe fate was little better. He received a wound, and returned immediately.

Seaforth borders on extravagance; and thofe who know them, allow that their temperance and frugality merit imitation. It deferves to be remarked among the peculiarities of this parifh, that no male or female comes under the contemptible appellation of a drunkard; and alfo, that there is not a M'Kenzie refident, or poffeffor, in the place, though it has been the property of that name for many generations.

Cattle, Sheep, &c.—The chief production is black-cattle; on which account is has got the name of *Kintail no Bogh,* or, "Kintail of cows." It is not fize, but fhape and figure, that gives the Kintail cattle the claim to preference, in the opinion of drovers, who always expect to meet with three good properties, a choice pile, weight, and fhort legs, in the true breed of cattle on the foil. Yet it may with truth be remarked, that few Highlanders are lefs attentive to the choice of bulls, their ftrefs being laid entirely on the rearing and feeding of calves. The number of black-cattle in the parifh amounts to about 1200. The price of a milch cow in May is generally L. 5, and at Martinmas, L. 4.

Every farmer rears a few fheep and goats, but their number is very inconfiderable; and they are chiefly intended to reach at that pafture which, by its fteepnefs, is inacceffible to black-cattle. The fheep are of the low and common kind; their wool, however is reckoned fine; though of late, by the introduction of large tups, it is thought the quality is affected, and that the intermixed progeny infects the whole flock with braxies, and other unknown diftempers. The price of a goat is 6s.—and of a wedder, 8s.

There are about 300 horfes in the parifh. Ploughing and every fort of labour is carried on by them; but they are never allowed to pafture with milch-cows in fummer: for them, the benty grafs of the mountains are referved. The plough with which

which theſe horſes labour the ground is of a ſingular conſtruction: The two handles are almoſt perpendicular; the ploughman therefore ſtands in an erect poſition. Four horſes all in a breaſt pull againſt the beam in thongs of leather cords, generally made of the ſkins of deers. Behind the ploughman, a man follows with a ſpade to compreſs the ſtrong furrows which reſiſted the ſide boards. The driver confronts the ploughman, holding the reins of the horſes collected in a croſs ſtick 3 feet long: in this aukward poſition, the driver moves backward; and neither example nor precept can convince the people of a better mode of culture.——Horſes for the plough are ſold at L. 6 or L. 7 ſterling.

Agriculture, Produce, &c.—Sowing commences about the beginning of April, and continues to the end of May: This period is occupied in ſowing oats, barley, and particularly potatoes; the greateſt attention is beſtowed on this root, as it makes up more than one-half year's ſubſiſtence, with the fiſh and herring Lochduich furniſhes in the months of Auguſt and September.——Every tenant who farms L. 20 rent, generally has 20 milch-cows, and ſows 4 bolls of oats, and half a boll of barley. Indeed, as is already obſerved, the great aim is to have a plentiful crop of potatoes; for the other crops have a variety of weathers to encounter, and cannot therefore be depended upon. The moſt competent judges of the ſoil and climate, ſuggeſt the plan of raiſing potatoes and green crops as the beſt Highland farming ſcheme.——It is cuſtomary to cut down a great quantity of natural graſs in the month of Auguſt; which, after receiving proper ſeaſoning, is made into ropes of two fathoms in length, and then twiſted two-fold: being thus compreſſed, it requires leſs room in barns, where all their crops are laid up. This proceſs has another advantage; for, in this mode, it is carried with the greater facility, into diſtant glens, for

for the relief of weak cattle in ſtormy weather.——The land is divided into oxen-gates, pennies, and farthings. In the firſt, there is room for 6 bolls ſowing. The arable land within the pariſh is indeed very inconſiderable, for 162 pennies, or 54 oxen-gates, comprehend the whole. It is found, that every penny of land, with its proportion of hill graſs, ought to maintain 8 milch cows, with their followers of yield cattle, that is, 3 heads, including the calf, after every milch-cow.

Inconveniencies.——The want of roads, fuel, and wood, are hardſhips with which the people ſtruggle. The ſcarcity of fuel ariſes from the inceſſant rains, the great expence of ferrying heavy moſſy peats over arms of the ſea, and of leading them from the ſummit of high hills. To all theſe may be added, the want of ſalt:—this was never more ſeverely felt than on the 29th of July, 1791; when the take of herring in Lochduich was ſo immenſe, that a ſingle boat killed 4 laſts in a night; but when this ſource of wealth was at the door, the pariſhioners could find no ſupply, and ſome were neceſſitated to commit the herrings to their original bed.——The farms which are baſes to high mountains, as in Kintail, ſuffer great loſſes from what is called *Scriddan*, or "mountain torrent." After heavy rains, the ſummit of the hills are ſo impregnated, that the mountains may be ſaid to be in labour, till an aperture is made by chance ſomewhere on their ſides; the exploſion which then ſucceeds is loud and alarming. Gravel and maſſy ſtones roll together, and deſolate the fields beneath. The farm of Auchuirn, in Glenelchaig, once a populous town, was, in 1745, rendered uninhabitable, and is ſince converted to a grazing, by an awful *Scriddan.* The traces of theſe eruptions have, to the eye of a traveller, all the appearance of a military road, in the face of the ſteep aſcent of the mountain.

A juſtice of the peace would be an uſeful member of ſociety

in Kintail: this defect, however, is nearly remedied by a baron baillie, who visits the place quarterly to settle all differences. Very great discouragements are given to law-suits of every description: the baillie in general is the sole arbiter. The recovery of small debts, encroachments on marshes, and trespassing the laws of penfolding, are the usual subjects of discussion.

Schools, Ecclesiastical State, and Poor.—There is a parochial school at Croe-side, with a salary of 200 merks; and another school at Glenelchaig, supported by subscription from the tenants, many of whom are Roman Catholics.

The heritors of the parish are only two, Francis Humberstone M'Kenzie of Seaforth, and Alexander Chisholm of Chisholm; neither of whom reside. The king is patron. The rent is L. 800 sterling. The stipend amounts to L. 55 : 11 : 1⅓ sterling; with L. 3 : 6 : 8 for communion elements, besides a glebe. There has been no augmentation of stipend within the present century.——A catechist was established at Glenelchaig, with a salary of L. 15, which is now reduced to L. 5. The priest lives in the town of Dornie, where he has built a dwelling; but he has no meeting-house.——The church is called Kiel-Duich. There are no traditional accounts of the original building. In 1719, it was burnt by the same ship of war which demolished the castle of Donan; but it is at present in excellent repair. All the people from the parish of Glensheal bury in this church yard; though it is evident, from the names of several towns in that parish, they had once burial places among them.

The poor's roll contains 15 persons: and such of these as are disabled by age or sickness are supported by the inhabitants, who send them supplies by the hands of some of their friends. The Sunday collections must be very inconsiderable, as only one-third

one-third of the parishioners can meet at the usual places of worship, which are three, Kiel-duich, Glenelchaig, and Dornie. From 1st June to 12th August, the people follow their flocks to hill grazings. The annual distribution to the poor, therefore, does not exceed 50s. or 60s.——There is no other public fund in the parish except 50,000 merks Scotch, mortified by the late Mr Alexander M'Rae, of Dornie; and left under the management of the King's College of Aberdeen, for educating the children of the nearest descendants from Alexander M'Rae, son of Mr Farquhar M'Rae, the first Protestant minister in the parish of Kintail; of whom is descended the present Mr M'Rae of Innerinate, the only gentleman residing within the parish.

Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755	693	Maid-servants -	63
——— in 1792	840	Married persons -	135
Protestants - -	654	Children under 6 years	140
Roman Catholics *	186	Widows - -	26
Males - - -	395	Marriages in a twelvemonth	13
Females - -	445	Births do. - -	54
Men-servants - -	26	Burials do. -	32

* *Reasons for the growth of Popery.* 1st, The Presbytery of Lochcarron in 1778 entered into a resolution, and passed an act obliging every member thereof to keep regular registers of baptism. And that, instead of the usual due, one shilling should in future be exacted, to enable the schoolmasters to keep up and preserve the registers.——Many of the most ignorant in Glenelchaig hearing of the new act, considered it as a heavy grievance; and, to avoid its consequence, applied to Roman Catholic priests for baptism, and in the heat of passion dragged whole families after them.——2d, Popery has increased by intermarriages. When a Protestant man marries a Roman Catholic woman he has very little domestic peace or happiness till he professes that religion, in which, he is often told by the wife, salvation can only be expected.

This

Miscellaneous Remarks.—The imports are meal, whisky, linen, tanned leather, fir-planks, and shelly sand for manure. The exports are, black-cattle, horses, furs, kelp, tallow, butter, and cheese.——There are 20 tons of kelp manufactured every second year; exclusive of the privilege given to the tenants, to use such quantities of sea-weed as are sufficient to lay down their barley and potatoes.

The dearth and scarcity of 1782, was not perceptible by the inhabitants. Since 1740, famine did not shew its face so much as in summer 1791, when 440 bolls of meal were imported, and sold in the parish at 18s. 6d. per boll. The wound, however, was soon healed by the uncommon take of herring in Lochduich, the ensuing season.

Men-servants generally receive from 30s. to 40s. The dairy maid gets 5 merks; besides one-half of the skins of all the calves that are killed as a perquisite. Many, however, depart from this mode, from conviction that the spirit of it is fatal to the young store.

The

This is a web which catches many a silly fly.——3d, It is to be regretted that the people are subject to low and melancholy fits, which (as is conjectured) arises from too much hazy and damp weather; on these occasions a priest, with whom the art of exorcism is supposed to be found, attends for relief to the distressed. If it happens that a kind providence thereafter removes the malady, the glory of the cure redounds to human frailty, and the pretended miracle becomes the ground and ostensible reason of conversion.—Lastly, The people in the district of Glenelchaig, where Popery prevails most, are extremely ignorant, and easily become the dupes of trafficking priests.——In the last century, there were no established schools in the place; as yet few, if any at all, of the tenants in this glen, read or understand the holy scriptures. There are however grounds to believe, that the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge will soon appoint a school, whereby the blessings of knowledge may be more liberally diffused through this valley, which is in the near neighbourhood of a Popish district.

The cafcade of Glommach lies in the heights of Glenelchaig; far from public view. The fall of water is very confiderable; and rendered awful by the darknefs of the furrounding hills and woods. The light which predominates at this place feldom exceeds twilight brightnefs *.

From

* *Remains of Antiquities*—The caftle of Donan was built in the reign of Alexander III. of Scotland, to refift the depredations of the Danes. It commanded a very extenfive profpect; and is fituated in the weftern extremity of the parifh. It had the full command of Lochduich and Lochlong, fo as to fecure the parifh from annoyances by water.——Colin Fitz Gerald, from whom is defcended the prefent family of Seaforth, was made conftable of this caftle, for the valour he difplayed at the battle of Largs in 1263.——Previous to Sheriff-muir this caftle was taken from the King's troops by ftratagem. A neighbouring tenant having applied to the governor for fome hands to cut down his corn, as he faid he underftood from the face of the fkies, and the croaking of ravens, that a heavy ftorm was impending, and that nothing but a fudden feparation of his crop from the ground could fave his family from ftarvation, the governor readily yielded to thefe preffing follicitations. But the foldiers, on their return, difcovered the deception too late; for the Kintail men by this time were reaping the fpoils, and keeping poffeffion of the caftle.——At full fea, Donan is inclofed by water, and formed into an ifland; but at ebb, is connected with the main land. This caftle was demolifhed in the year 1719, after the battle of Glenfheal, by a fhip of war. Some of the bullets are ftill found in moffy ground at the diftance of a mile above it; and are ufed by fome of the oldeft inhabitants as weights to fell butter and cheefe.—It appears that when the caftle was entire, it confifted of a tower and rampart; the fragments of the former, which was built long before the rampart, meafure 4 feet broad. The only entire and remaining part is the fountain, which is ftill inclofed by a wall of 15 feet high in an octagonal figure. This draw-well was once drained at great expence, with the profpect of finding treafure, which was found to confift only of fome filver fpoons and fmall fire arms: the water is ftill fweet and of good quality.——The roof of the caftle was lead. The oldeft inhabitant of the parifh remembers to have feen the Kintail men under arms, dancing on the leaden roof, juft as they were fetting out for the battle of Sheriff-muir, where this refolute band was cut to pieces.

In

From the beginning of Auguſt to the end of Semptember, there are 30, and ſometimes 50, veſſels in queſt of herring in Lochduich; many of theſe come from the borders of England to buy with ready money. Salmon, by reaſon of the long duration of ſnow on the mountains, and the coldneſs of the water, ſeldom appear in this loch before the month of June, and continue there to the middle of Auguſt. Ling, ſkate, cuddies, lythe, and mackrel, are alſo found in Lochduich; though not in ſuch abundance as in the neighbouring lakes.

In a rivulet before the manſe, are found garnet ſtones; and at Innerinate lime-ſtone and aſbeſtos.

There have been ſeveral bards in Kintail; John Mac Rae, *alias* Mac Curchi, the laſt of them, emigrated to America; not from neceſſity, for he lived in affluence. In America, he met with ſeveral misfortunes; which occaſioned his compoſing a tale of woe, pointing out his own infatuation in leaving his native ſoil wantonly. But what chiefly exalts his reputation as a poet, was a ſong he made after a great loſs of cattle, little ſhort of any thing in Gaelic compoſition.

NUMBER

In 1719, 300 Spaniards were poured into this country, to aſſiſt thoſe who wiſhed for a reſtoration of the Stewart race.—They kept their magazine of powder and ball behind the manſe; but, after the battle of Glenſheal, they ſet fire to it immediately, leſt it ſhould fall into the hands of the King's troops. Theſe balls are ſtill gathered up by ſportſmen; and are found in great abundance upon the glebe.

Dounan Diarmod, or Fort of Diarmod is before the manſe. It is of a circular figure, 20 feet high and of the ſame breadth. There is no other ſpot on the ſame plain which commands ſo great a proſpect. There is a well on the out- and the beſt harbour for ſhipping in all Lochduich.———Diarmod's tomb is on the N. E. of the fort. The rough ſtones of which it is compoſed are regularly placed by the hand of art, and meaſure 15 feet by 3. The Campbells who reſort to the place, often viſit and meaſure the tomb of that Fingalian hero.

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF NORTH KNAPDALE.

(PRESBYTERY OF INVERARY, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

By the Rev. MR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL.

Name and Antiquities.

KNAP-DALE ſignifies, in the Celtic language, *hill* and *dale.* Previous in the year 1734, the two Knap-dales, North and South, formed only one pariſh, called *Killvick Ocharmaig.* This *Mac Ocharmaig* was an Iriſh ſaint, who took up his reſidence upon a ſmall iſland, in the vicinity of the pariſh: he occaſionally made excurſions upon ſhore; and founded different chapels, in the neighbourhood.—After the Scottiſh kings got ſome footing in this territory, upon the defeat of the Danes by Alexander III. at the battle of the Largs, this pariſh was granted to the family of Eglinton, and that family probably gave its teinds and patronage to the abbey of Kilwinning in Ayrſhire; at the Reformation, this abbey enjoyed all theſe rights.——In former ages, the whole of this weſt coaſt of Argyleſhire was perpetually expoſed to the deſcents and depredations of ſtrangers. The Iriſh, from the ſouth, and the Danes from the north, formed many ſmall colonies,

lonies, at a convenient diſtance from the ſea; but the original inhabitants never allowed them to penetrate further.——There are many monuments, of the remoteſt antiquity, which not only prove the martial ſpirit of our anceſtors, but alſo, that they conducted operations with a method ſcarcely to be expected in theſe rude ages. For a tract of 150 miles, watch towers were erected in ſight of each other. If an enemy landed, or if he was ſeen hovering in ſight, in the courſe of two hours, the whole country was alarmed; and the inhabitants repaired to the ſhore, completely armed. The ſignal was to kindle a fire in each of theſe towers; and, as quick as lightening, all were illuminated, and all the country in motion.——When any chief or hero diſtinguiſhed himſelf in battle and fell, a monument was erected to his memory. This monument conſiſted of a ſtone ſet up perpendicularly upon the ſpot; and the length of it determined the eſtimation in which the hero was held by his countrymen.——The heroes, celebrated by Oſſian, were a militia eſtabliſhed in Argyleſhire, for the purpoſe of defending the country upon any ſudden emergency. They alſo were the dernier reſort in battle, becauſe they were the beſt men that could be picked from the whole diſtrict. Their fame was ſo great, that the Iriſh were obliged to have recourſe frequently to their aſſiſtance, to defend them from the northern nations.——When we behold ſuch evident marks of genius among a rude people, we naturally regret that it is not in our power to delineate the civil polity by which theſe times were regulated.

Progreſs of Civilization.—Philoſophers, and men of ſpeculative genius, often amuſe themſelves with melancholy deſcriptions of what they ſuppoſe muſt have happened in theſe barbarous ages, without the leaſt allowance for the happineſs and independance which in ſome degree is peculiar to this ſtate.

 Of

Of old, the chieftain was not ſo much conſidered the maſter as the father of his numerous clan. Every individual of theſe followers loved him with a degree of enthuſiaſm, which made them chearfully undergo any fatigue or danger. Upon the other hand, it was his intereſt, it was his pride, and his chief glory, to requite ſuch animated friendſhip to the utmoſt of his power. The rent paid him was chiefly conſumed in feaſts given at the habitations of his tenants. What he was to ſpend, and the time of his reſidence at each village, was known, and provided for accordingly. The men who provided theſe entertainments partook of them; they all lived friends together; and the departures of the chief and his retinue never failed to occaſion regret.——In more poliſhed times, the cattle and corn conſumed, at theſe feaſts of hoſpitality, were ordered up to the landlord's habitation: what was friendſhip at the firſt became very oppreſſive in modern times. Till very lately, in this neighbourhood, Campbell of Auchinbreck had a right to carry off the beſt cow he could find upon ſeveral properties, at each Martinmas, by way of mart. The iſland of Iſlay paid 500 ſuch cows yearly, and ſo did Kintyre, to the M'Donalds: the Crown now has converted theſe cows at 20s. a head, and taken away this badge of ſlavery.

The inconveniences, attending this ſtate, aroſe from the petty quarrels between neighbouring clans: theſe took their riſe from a ſpirit of plunder and depredation, and from points of fantaſtical honour; and they ſeldom endured long at a time; the weakeſt party giving way, and keeping quiet until times and circumſtances made him a match for his antagoniſt. It is remarkable, that no conſiderable family was ever annihilated by theſe inteſtine broils; a proof, that they were not ſo deſtructive as, at this diſtance of time, we are apt to believe.

At the period now under review, the Scottiſh kings had no authority whatever in this part of the country; on the con-

trary, the M'Donalds of the Isles assumed regal powers, and actually held parliaments, or meetings of a similar nature, where they enacted laws.—The dispute between Baliol and Bruce changed this scene. The Bruces travelled through Argyleshire in the course of their peregrinations. After they were established upon the throne, this part of their dominions became an object. They brought the M'Donalds and other clans to some kind of subordination. At last, they built fortresses; and gave the command of them to military captains. From this time, in their different wars with the English, they had recourse to the assistance of the Highlanders. It became necessary for the chieftains to lead their followers to the low country; and of course to contract debts.

From this æra, the condition of the middling ranks became worse; for the chiefs found it necessary to lay on an addition to their yearly revenue, in order to defray the expence incurred in attending the sovereign. This innovation, in some measure, slackened the ancient friendship; and, in order to enforce obedience, it was necessary to have recourse to penal laws. The king accordingly gratified his feudal barons in this respect; indeed he could not act otherwise, for these barons were always formidable to his throne.

The first dawn of kingly government produced gibbets upon almost every feudal estate. Without trial or jury, the proprietor hanged without mercy or remorse.——The evil became at last so flagrant, that a jury and bailliff or sheriff was introduced: but it did not cure the mischief; for this law-officer was frequently gratified for the blood he spared; and, if a culprit was poor, he was thought a very proper subject for the gallows.—In short, this despotic system was not effectually reformed until the year 1748, when these abominable jurisdictions were totally abolished.——The effect of this reformation was astonishing. No sooner were men emancipated from their

fetters

ſetters than they began to improve their properties. Within theſe 30 years, the face and condition of this country has undergone the happieſt change, as appears by a variety of uſeful improvements.

Extent, Soil, Climate, &c.—The extent of this pariſh is about 12 miles in length, and 3 in breadth, An arm of the ſea interſects it nearly into two equal parts. It is bounded on the weſt by the Atlantic ocean. The ſoil, for paſture and tillage is excellent; and of arable ground there is a very great proportion. The climate is rainy, as is the caſe all along the weſt coaſt; but the rain is very favourable for the paſtures.—The inhabitants are healthy; but, owing to their ſtile of living, they are ſometimes viſited with putrid fevers, which are often fatal, for want of ability to procure medical aſſiſtance. In ſummer, they live much upon fiſh and milk; and, it is ſuppoſed, that this mixture contaminates the blood.——The practice of inoculation has been a fortunate diſcovery. In this diſtrict, great numbers of children uſed to die of the ſmall-pox, when it made its attack by contagion.

Among the hills of this pariſh there are many ſmall lakes abounding in the fineſt trout. Salmon is got in many places along the coaſt; and the herring pay an annual viſit to many arms of the ſea, though not in great numbers.

The hill called Cruach-Luſſa is the higheſt in the pariſh. From the top of this eminence a ſtranger, fond of the ſublime, might entertain his imagination with one of the grandeſt objects in North Britain. From it may be ſeen, towards the weſt, as much of the Atlantic as the eye can command, diverſified with a conſiderable number of the Hebrides, Iſlay, Jura, Scarba, Mull, Seil, and many ſmaller iſlands, fertile in corn, and abounding in the fineſt paſture. The

north of Ireland, in a clear day, may be also distinguished, and especially the island of Rathlin.

Between the islands and the main land, the tide runs with a velocity incredible to a stranger. Between Jura and Scarba, the space is about one mile over, in this narrow strait. Three currents, formed by the islands and mainland, meet a fourth, which sets in from the ocean; the conflux is dreadful, and spurns all description: even the genius of Milton could not paint the horror of the scene. At the distance of 12 miles, a most dreadful noise, as if all the infernal powers had been let loose, is heard. By the conflict of these inanimate heroes, who will not yield, though fighting twice a-day since the foundation of the world, an eddy is formed, which would swallow up the largest ship of the line: but at full tide these combatants take a little rest; and, when they are asleep, the smallest bark may pass with impunity. This gulf is called Cory-vreckan.

From this scene, turning to the N. one beholds the hill of Cruachan, the highest in Argyleshire, and among the highest in Scotland. This mountain looks like the sovereign of all the rest. Even in the month of June, he does not put off his snowy night-cap. The other hills, to the number of several hundreds, in comparison look like mole-hills. Upon the face of this landscape, a great many lakes spangle to the sun beams, and form a prospect truly romantic. The largest is Lochow, about 20 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. This lake abounds with plenty of the finest salmon; and what is uncommon, the seal comes up from the ocean, through a very rapid river, in quest of this fish; and retires to the sea at the approach of winter.

Natural Productions, Cattle, and Sheep.——The district of this county, properly called Argyle, especially that part situated near the coast, is more fertile in grain than strangers are apt to imagine;

imagine; and the paſtures produce the beſt cattle that appear in the Engliſh markets from the Highlands. The mode of management is extremely faulty. That part of the land, which is ſtill in the hands of the farmers, is ploughed up every year: it is out of heart, and produces no adequate returns. The land, though of excellent ſoil, is poor; of courſe the tenant is poor alſo. The paſture grounds are always overſtocked with cattle. No argument or intreaty will induce the tenants to reſtrict the paſture to the numbers which would thrive properly. At the moſt moderate calculation, one-third of the cattle ſhould be reduced.—In the next place, no attention is paid to the kind of bulls; provided there be a bull, the kind is little minded. This is a capital error; for the moſt luxuriant paſture will not produce good cattle without attending to the breed. It is not hereby meant that a ſtrange breed ſhould be introduced; this would by no means anſwer as to any ſpecies of cattle whatever: the idea is, to take the beſt that can be found in the country *.

The principal cauſe of bad management, as to farming, ſeems to be the following:—the generality of farms are poſſeſſed by

4

* Much induſtry and expence has been incurred in introducing a breed of larger ſheep to this part of the country. There cannot be a more capital miſtake; the natives of the ſoil, of whatever ſpecies, anſwer beſt.—The true highland ſheep, if the experiment was fairly tried, would produce finer wool, and more delicate fleſh; the native wool now ſells at 2s. a ſtone more than the Galloway wool, but it is contended, that the country breed does not arrive at ſuch a ſize, or to ſuch a weight of fleſh. The fact is admitted; but let one paſture native ſheep in place of the foreign breed, and balance the account of profit and loſs, as follows: Native ſheep are not ſo liable to braxy and other maladies as the foreign; the wool is of ſuperior quality; the fleſh, is of ſuperior delicacy; and upon the ſame paſture that 8 foreign ſheep require, 19 of the native breed may be fed: the argument here is unanſwerable.———Beſides no experiment has yet been tried to what ſize the native ſheep could be brought.

4 tenants: all of them ſhould be reſtricted to 2 occupiers. The reaſon is, that 4 tenants, with their families, are too great an expence upon the land, which is not able to ſupport them properly, and pay the rent. Reduce the tenement to 2 families, and both have a comfortable ſubſiſtence; they have a greater intereſt in the object; the little contentions which always diſtract 4 are reduced to 2, and therefore a greater unanimity ſubſiſts: the 4 alſo, by having too much time upon their hands, are perpetually turning up the ground not in heart, and that ought to lie fallow; their labour in fact is not worth 3d. per day; whereas, at real day labour under a maſter, they might earn 1s.

State of the People, Productions, &c.——The population of this country cannot properly be ſaid to be upon the decline, except as to one particular, and that is, the monopoly of a number of graſs farms in the hands of ſingle individuals. The high price of cattle, for ſome years back, is the cauſe of this check upon population. There are ſingle men who occupy ſome 8 and ſome 10 tenements, upon each of which there is only one herd. This misfortune would not be ſo very much to be lamented if theſe monopolizers had actually enriched their country in the ſame proportion that they have been the means of reducing the number of its inhabitants. If the men muſt take their departure, the leaſt apology ſhould be, that a greater number of cattle are raiſed: this is by no means the caſe; for, if 1 or 2 tenements out of 8 or 10 are excepted, theſe ingroſſers of land breed no cattle: their chief employment is to purchaſe cattle, and to prepare them for the Scotch and Engliſh markets.

There are very few real good cattle bred in the country, tho' ſo very well calculated for the purpoſe. The proprietors of land, ſuch as reſide upon the ſpot, for the accommodation of

their

their families, keep a few good milch-cows near them; and a very few ſubſtantial tackſmen raiſe all the good cows which are now ſent to market. The great proportion of cattle that appear in market are ſtinted in growth, by the bad management of the farmer. Theſe ſcraggy impoveriſhed beaſts are picked up by the monopolizers already mentioned; they are turned for a ſeaſon upon the deſolate land; and, in proceſs of time, become ſomewhat better; when they are turned off to make way for a new fleece. Cattle, properly paſtured, bring at an average L.5 a head at market; but theſe impoveriſhed and ſtinted cows never exceed the price of L. 3 : 10.——Were the monopolizers reſtricted to one, or two farms at moſt, it would in a great meaſure cure this evil, and would, at any rate, be the cauſe of rearing better cattle, and in greater numbers.

The people employed in cultivating the ground are generally in indigent circumſtances; but farmers and day-labourers never enjoyed better times. The moſt of the young men go to the buſs-fiſhing for one half of the year, and return with good wages: ſuch as ſtay at home at day-labour receive between 1s. and 14d. per day.

The produce of the pariſh conſiſts of oats, bear, and potatoes, black-cattle, ſheep, and horſes. The rent is above L.3000 ſterling. In the year 1765, it did not amount to much more than one-half of this ſum.

The number of tenements are 61;—of black-cattle 1200;—of ſheep 1400;—and of horſes 200. The quantity of grain raiſed annually is conſiderable.——The heritors are 12 in number.

Stipend, Poor, and Population.—The tiends of the pariſh amount to 262 bolls of victual, and L. 18 ſterling of money: out of which the incumbent receives 72 bolls of victual,

L. 32 sterling of money, and L. 3 : 6 : 8 for communion elements; a stipend by far too small for the present times.

There are few poor, though a number of mendicants travel about; most of whom might very well earn a subsistence. The funds distributed arise from voluntary collections.

The number of examinable persons is 754, of various ages 255;—in all 1009. The return to the Dr. Webster, in 1755, was 1369 souls. The annual average of births is 70, and of marriages 14.

Miscellaneous Remarks.—The Highlanders are naturally of a quick and clear understanding, with lively passions; resembling the ancient Gauls more than their neighbours of the low country; being averse to a sedentary life, but fond of those scenes where honour can be acquired by personal activity and courage, and regardless of toil and of danger. Though fond of money, they are averse to those habits of cool and slow application by which it is most successfully acquired. By this part of their character they become, upon critical occasions, most useful for the defence of the state.—The late Sir Archibald Campbell was an heritor of this parish. The rise of this distinguished man may be fairly imputed to his intrinsic worth and superior abilities.——To the morals of the lower ranks much praise cannot be given. This defect may be, in a great measure, imputed to the want of education. A parochial school cannot extend its benefit to any considerable proportion of an extensive parish. Even parochial schools are but poorly endowed: the practice of private teaching in families has rendered the better sort too indifferent as to this public object. The public, at large, do not encourage schoolmasters according to their utility and importance in society. There cannot be a more fundamental mistake. Much of the peace and prosperity of the community being closely connected with the good principles

ples of the great maſs of the people. Puniſhments, in place of correcting, will only exaſperate untutored minds in ordinary caſes. Upon any dangerous convulſion, or public commotion, theſe minds are eaſily miſled by men of factious ſpirits; the conſequence of which is often anarchy and confuſion, and the total ſubverſion of peace and good order. Such evil conſequences can never be prevented without knowledge and education; and for this reaſon men, in power and authority, ſhould pay particular attention to the ſubject.

NUMBER XXXI.

UNITED PARISHES OF KILCHRENAN AND DALAVICH.

(PRESBYTERY OF LORN, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c.

KILCHRENAN signifies, in the Celtic, *the burying place of Chrenan*, the tutelar saint of the parish. Dalavich is so called from its contiguity to the water of Avich; upon which it has a meal and waulk mill.

The figure of the parish is nearly an oblong square, cut into two in the direction of its length by Lochow. The land rises, by a gradual ascent on the E. side, 4 miles to the summit of a range of hills, called the Muir of Leckan; and on the W. side by a similar ascent, 4 miles to the summit of another range, called the Mid-Muir. The muir of Leckan is 24 computed miles in length, and lies in the division of Argyle. The Mid-Muir, also 24 miles long, lies in the division of Lorn.—The length of the parish is 12 miles, and the medium breadth 8. —As this is the only parish in Argyleshire which has no sea-coast, the odious and unproductive tax on coals, with the ex-

 pensive

penſive land carriage, makes this neceſſary article extremely dear, particularly in thoſe rainy ſeaſons in which peats cannot be ſaved.

As there has been no actual ſurvey of this pariſh, the number of acres can only be computed by the length and breadth. The length, 12 miles, multiplied by 8, the breadth, is equal to 96 ſquare miles, or 61440 Scotch acres.——The ſurface is much diverſified with heights and hollows, interſected by numerous ſtreams deſcending from the hills. Heath is the prevailing appearance, excepting where the land has been in tillage. Near the ſhore of the lake, there is good natural paſture, much valuable wood, and ſome improveable moſs.

Lakes, Iſlands, and Caſtles.——Lochow, with its numerous creeks and iſlands covered with wood to the water edge, with many copious ſtreams deſcending from the hills, forming numberleſs beautiful caſcades, preſents to the view objects well worth attention. Twelve of theſe iſlands belong to this pariſh.——Surrounded by a cluſter of other iſlands, lies the beautiful one of Iniſh-chonnel, with its caſtle. This caſtle, a majeſtic ruin of great antiquity, now covered over with ivy, was for ſeveral centuries the chief reſidence of the family of Argyle; and appears, from the nature, ſtrength, and ſize of the building, to have been occupied by a powerful chieftain, whoſe ſway and extent of territory we learn, from record and tradition, to have been immenſe.——Near Iniſh-Chonnel lies Iniſh-Eraith, mentioned by Dr. Smith of Campbeltown, in his authenticity of Oſſian's poems, as the place to which the traitor Erath beguiled Duara, as recounted in one of the ſongs of Selma. In this iſle are burying grounds, and the ruins of a chapel. Near this, is *Elain 'n tagart*, or "Prieſt's iſle," with ſome traces the prieſt's houſe ſtill diſcernible. Lochow abounds with trout and ſalmon.——Lochavich, antiently called Loch-

luina, is a beautiful ſheet of water, of a regular triangular form, about 8 miles in circumference, full of trout; having one caſtle and ſeveral iſlands, the reſort of gulls, cranes, water-eagles, and wild-ducks.——Near this lake lay the ſcene of an antient Celtic poem, tranſlated by Dr. Smith, called *Cath-luina*, or "the conflict of Luina:" and in the lake is an iſland, the ſcene of another poem, called *Laoi Fraoich*, or "the death of Fraoch."—Many places in this neighbourhood are ſtill denominated from Oſſian's heroes. This lake diſcharges itſelf into Lochow by the ſtream or water of Avich, buried in wood; having ſix fine falls, with large circular ponds at the foot of each, and poſſeſſing the peculiarity of never freezing; even in the year 1740, not a particle of ice was obſerved on it, though the lake, from whence it iſſues, was entirely frozen over.

Mode of Cultivation.—The out-field lands are commonly in 6 diviſions. After a tathing, by allowing the cattle to lie upon the field at night, and after milking at noon, two or 3 crops of oats are taken. The land then lies ley for 3 years. The returns are commonly from 3 to 4 bolls gray or mixed oats, per acre. The infield lands are in 4 diviſions: from one, potatoes are taken, which are commonly very good; from another diviſion, bear, likewiſe good; oats ſucceed the bear, upon a third diviſion of the in-field or winter town land, but are not good; and the fourth diviſion is ley. The moſt induſtrious, who begin to know the uſe of lime, which they have in plenty, ſow white inſtead of gray oats; and have upon their infield land pretty good crops. Would they be perſuaded to pay particular attention to the raiſing of potatoes and other green crops from their in fields, with as much bear, hay, and oats, as they can properly dreſs and manure, and allow their diſtant out-fields to lie entirely in paſture, they would certainly find it their intereſt. The expence

pence of raiſing thoſe crops often exceed their value.—Prevailing rains through great part of the year, with a precarious ſeed-time and harveſt, render the climate of this country unfriendly to the growth of corn; therefore the chief attention ſhould be directed to the improvement of our graſs and cattle. —The inhabitants are beginning to keep fewer cattle, and of courſe, better graſs than formerly. The gentlemen are particularly attentive in this reſpect.

Mr Campbell of Sonachan incloſes, dreſſes, and limes extenſively for graſs-ſeeds. The farm upon which he reſides, beſides excellent paſture, gives him more hay than a numerous ſtock of black-cattle and horſes can conſume. Sheep he pays particular attention to; and has more than once gained the premium given to this country for the beſt tups.—Mr Campbell of Kilmartin, who has reſided only for a few years in this pariſh, has neatly incloſed and ſubdivided the farm he lives on for breeding a ſtock of black-cattle: few in the county underſtand cattle better, or keeps ſo nice a ſtock as he does.—The incumbent poſſeſſes a well incloſed and ſubdivided farm. From the arable land, he takes a rotation of oats, green crops, bear, and graſs-ſeeds, with lime or compoſt. After one crop of hay, he paſtures for ſeveral years;—uſes Small's plough, with two horſes, without a driver;—keeps 400 breeding ewes of the ſhort or Linton kind, which he intends croſſing this year with Cheviot-hill tups.

Woods, Inns, and Roads.——Incloſing, cutting, barking or peeling, and coaling the extenſive woods in this pariſh, employ many hands. The woods are purchaſed by the Lorn and Argyle furnace companies. The wages of the people employed are, men from 1s. to 1s. 6d. women from 6d. to 9d. per day.

There are 2 inns in the pariſh; one of them a very good

houſe,

house, with stables and boats at the ferry of Portsonachan, upon the shortest road to Bunaw and Oban. This road runs along the water of Naint through the romantic forest of Muckairn.—The roads of this district are very bad, the statute labour having been suffered to be expended on lines of road thought more immediately necessary, out of the parish, for many years.—At the south end of the parish, Mr Campbell of Kilmartin and Mr Campbell of Inverliver, have advanced considerably in carrying on the line of road along the west side of Lochow, as Mr Campbell of Sonachan has done on the east side.

Ecclesiastical State, Poor, and Schools.—The present incumbent, William Campbell, was ordained minister in 1744.—The Duke of Argyle is patron and superior. The living consists of 4 chalders of meal, and L. 400 Scotch, besides L. 60 Scotch for furnishing communion elements. There are neither glebe nor manse *.—There are 2 new churches in the parish, at 7 miles distance from each other.

In 1764, the number upon the poor's list was 19; and the only fund for their support, arising from the ordinary collections at the churches, amounted to L. 3 : 18 : 8¼ sterling. The capital stock is now L. 64 : 11 : 5. The interest of this sum, with the ordinary church collections, amounted in 1791 to L. 15 : 14 : 10, which was distributed amongst 29 persons, the number now upon the list.

From

* As no church lands could be found in the parish, the presbytery designed a legal glebe, out of the nearest and most contiguous lands to the church as law directs; which, after being infefted in, (in the year 1747), and obtaining a horning upon the decreet of presbytery, the incumbent has been most unaccountably kept out of possession of to this day; so that, if his noble patron had not provided him with a commodious farm, his situation must have been most uncomfortable.

From the length of the parifh, and its fituation on both fides by Lochow, it is neceffary to divide the fchool funds, which makes the falary to fchoolmafters fo fmall, that there is much difficulty in procuring perfons properly qualified.

1 Charity fchool,		50	fcholars.	Salary, L.	12	0	0
1 Ambulatory,	do.	12	do.	do.	6	0	0
1 Parochial,	do.	25	do.	do.	5	0	0
1 do.	do.	33	do.	do.	5	0	0
4 Schools		120	fcholars.		L. 28	0	0

There has been, befides, L. 74 mortified by a lady of the family of Campbell of Achanabreak, for fupporting the fchool of Kilchrenan.

Population Table.

Number of fouls in 1755	1030	Tackfmen, poffeffing 4 farms each - -	2
——— in 1792	1124	——— poffeffing 2 farms - -	2
Under 10 -	255	——— poffeffing 1 farm - -	5
Between 10 and 20	220	Small tenants - -	90
——— 20 and 30	198	Minifter - - -	1
——— 30 and 40	126	Scholmafter - -	1
——— 40 and 50	118	Shopkeeper - -	1
——— 50 and 60	76	Innkeepers - -	2
——— 60 and 70	64	Dram-fellers - -	5
——— 70 and 80	45	Smiths - - -	2
——— 80 and 90	20	Houfe-carpenters -	2
——— 90 and 100	2	Weavers - -	22
Males - -	530	Shoemakers -	6
Females -	594	Taylors - -	6
Families - -	280		
Refiding proprietors, pofffeffing 1 farm each -	6		

Millers

Millers - -	4
Packmen -	3
Carrier -	1
Waulk millers and dysters	2
Widows - -	40
Wood-cutters and dyke-builders -	40
Ferry-man at Portsonachan - -	1
——— at Inisherath	1
Coupers - -	2
Married herds -	18
Married workmen -	16
Total of the above	280
Their children and families - -	844
Students of divinity	2
Schoolmasters, not householders, -	3
Average of births	30
——— of marriages	10
Deaths in one year	23
Whereof under 6 months old of inflammation of the bowels -	7
Ditto, of locked jaws	5
Ditto, of the small pox	2
Of the small-pox, between 3 and 4 years of age - -	1
Of a fever, between 20 and 30 - -	1
Of ditto, between 30 and 40 - -	2
Of consumptions, between 70 and 80	2
Of ditto, between 80 and 90 - -	1
Suddenly, between 80 and 90 -	2
Population in 1768, according to a list taken by the minister	1500
Decrease since 1768 -	376

The decrease since 1768 must, in a great measure, have taken place from the conversion of some very indifferent corn farms, upon which a number of people made shift to live, to very good sheep and black cattle grazings, to which, in this climate, such lands are best adapted. Though this has had the effect of reducing the number of inhabitants in particular districts, it is supposed that, except when emigrations to foreign parts take place, it has neither tended to diminish the population of the kingdom, to affect the prosperity of this country, or to render the condition of the lower ranks much worse. Indeed,

deed, excepting upon the eſtates of the Duke of Argyle, the Earl of Breadalbane, and a few others, ſmall tenants in this country are very well ſatisfied when they can ſubſiſt their families, and pay their rents, without the addition of one ſhilling to their little ſtock. Two families only have emigrated to North America from this pariſh, for half a century.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The inhabitants are all of the Eſtabliſhed church; and, to very few, have all been born in the pariſh, and baptiſed by the preſent incumbent, who is near 80 years of age, and the oldeſt member of the ſynod of Argyle.—They are a ſober, regular, induſtrious ſet of people; generous, humane, high ſpirited, and loyal, when called to the exertion of thoſe qualities. In the year 1745, 80 able young volunteers offered their ſervices to their country; and, headed by the miniſter, appeared at the croſs of Inverary in leſs than 24 hours after he had received intimation, from the Duke of Argyle, of his Grace's deſire that he ſhould repair thither, without loſs of time, with as many of his pariſhioners as could conveniently be ſpared.—If occaſion ſtill required, the inhabitants of this pariſh would, with equal alacrity, turn out to defend their gracious ſovereign, and that happy conſtitution, under which they enjoy ſuch invaluable bleſſings.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF CRAWFORD-JOHN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OE LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By tho Rev. MR. WILLIAM MILLER.

Name, Extent, and Rivers.

THE appellation of the parish is supposed to have been taken from some person of the name of Crawford having had interest in it; and the addition of John has been affixed by way of distinguishing it from a contiguous parish, called simply Crawford, or sometimes Crawford-Douglas, or Lindsay. It lies in a direction from W. to E.—then turns northward, being of an oblong kind of figure, extending to about 15 miles in length, and generally to about 6 in breadth. A small river, called Duneaton-water, which has its rise near Carntable at the head of the parish, runs the whole length of this district; and is well stored with trout, as are also several other brooks and rivulets in the parish, particularly Blackburn, which is famous for a very excellent species, reddish in the flesh, and resembling that of salmon.

Agriculture and Sheep.—Little can be said as to the state of improvements

improvements in agriculture, the land in general being more proper for ſheep-paſture than for tillage. When the ſeaſons are favourable, and the harveſt early, the crops of grain are very good; but it ſometimes happens, in unfavourable ſeaſons, that damage is done to the grain by froſts. In this caſe, the people are obliged to purchaſe ſeed for the enſuing year from other places at a great expence. This renders them averſe to cultivate the quantity of land they otherwiſe might; there being only 20 ploughs kept in the pariſh, which, on an average, do not labour above 30 acres each. The riſe that has happened in the price of ſheep, tends alſo to produce an indifference about tillage. Beſides, the cultivation of land for grain requires much laborious work, while the management of a ſtore or ſheep farm is attended with eaſe and leiſure. There are about 20 larger and ſmaller farms in the pariſh, each of which have ground proper for both tillage and paſture. The ſheep reared on theſe farms are of good quality; particularly on Gilkerſcleugh mains, from which ground tups and wool have been produced that obtained public premiums. The number of ſheep in the pariſh is ſaid to be above 12,000, though it cannot eaſily be aſcertained. The number of black cattle is likewiſe conſiderable.

Natural Productions and Seats.—The natural productions are, oats, of which each farmer ſows from 10 to 50 bolls; bear, of which only from ½ to 4 bolls are ſown on each farm; a little peaſe; ſmall quantities of flax; and ſome potatoes. There is not much ſown graſs here, the ground being generally open, and not fenced from the ſheep; but meadow, or bog hay, is cut on almoſt every farm.——There are 2 gentlemen's ſeats in the pariſh, Gilkerſcleugh and Gleſpine. At the former, a ſtranger is agreeably ſurpriſed to find, in ſo high a ſituation, incloſures laid out with much taſte and propriety.

Here may be ſeen ſome fine old timber, with a conſiderable tract of thriving plantations of different ages; and ſeveral very judicious improvements are carrying on by the preſent proprietor.

Minerals.——Glendorch, in this pariſh, belonging to the Earl of Hopetoun, has afforded a very rich produce of lead to his Lordſhip for ſome time paſt. This valuable mineral was alſo found on the lands of Glendouran; but the working thereof is now diſcontinued, on account of the irruption of water. On Gilkerſcleugh eſtate, lead was found. There is likewiſe, on the ſame property, a good limeſtone quarry, with abundance of white free-ſtone; and a good appearance of coal. Upon the lands of Abington are ſtill to be ſeen veſtiges of a work, which, report ſays, was in ſearch of gold, and that quantities of that precious metal were found here by Bullmore. Theſe lands alſo produce free-ſtone of a reddiſh colour *.

Population Table.

Number of ſouls in	1755, 765	Number of ſouls in	1788, 620
——— ——— in	1761, 550	——— ——— in	1790, 590

Annual

* On the top of Netherton-hill, oppoſite to the houſe of Gilkerſcleugh, is an old encampment, conſiſting of two circular ridges of ſtones one within the other. The diſtance betwixt the inner and outer circle is upwards of 30 feet; and the diameter of the former is 135 feet. Eaſt from this, are the ruins of a building, called Fairholm, conſiſting of ſeveral apartments; ſuppoſed to have been the ſtorehouſe for this encampment. Near Crawford-John, ſtood a caſtle; ſome of the vaults of which are not entirely demoliſhed. Near this, is a moat in the form of a ſemicircle, 148 feet diameter, which appears to have been eaſily filled with water from a ſpring on the ſpot. The veſtiges of another old caſtle, two vaults of which are ſtill habitable, are to be ſeen ſtanding on a peninſulated rock at Snar.

Annual average of births for 6 years preceding 1786 - -	23	Innkeepers -	6
—— preceding 1792	22	Wrights - -	2
Annual average of deaths for 6 years preceding 1786 - -	15	Smiths - -	3
—— preceding 1792	16	Masons - - -	2
Schoolmaster -	1	Weavers - -	4
Shopkeepers - -	4	Taylor - - -	1
		Shoemaker - -	1
		Cooper - -	1
		Valued rent, Scotch	L. 2360
		Real rent, sterling	L. 2500

Miscellaneous Observations.—A number of the inhabitants are tacksmen of farms; and there are several cottagers in the parish. Some of these work in the mines of Leadhills and Wanlockhead: others possess a piece of ground under the tacksmen, and follow any kind of work that occurs, with a horse or horses, whereby they are enabled to pay their rent.—The people are generally intelligent, sober, and regular; but of late, seem to have more fondness for showiness of dress, and convivial meetings, than could have been expected in so remote a situation.—Curling is a favourite diversion among the commonality; and even the gentlemen sometimes join in it.—— George Colebrooke, Esq. is patron of the parish.—— Part of the great road from Glasgow to Carlisle passes through the parish, where it meets another great road from Edinburgh to Leadhills. There are, besides, several internal roads in the parish; to which great attention is paid; and the statute-work is performed upon them annually.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF EDDERACHYLIS.

(PRESBYTERY OF TONGUE, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND AND CAITHNESS, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.)

By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER FALCONER.

Date of Erection, Name, and Extent.

THE parish of Edderachylis was erected, together with the parishes of Diurness and Tongue, by the General Assemby 1724, in consequence of a petition, in the name of the inhabitants of the parish of Diurness, presented to the General Assembly 1721, which was seconded by the then Lord Reay, sole proprietor of it; representing the great need there was for its being subdivided into two or more parishes, on account of its vast extent.

The name of the parish, as of all other places in this country, is Celtic, being descriptive of its situation, and signifying literally, "betwixt two kyles, or arms, of the sea;" because of its lying being between *Coalis-cuin*, which divides it on the S. from Assint, and *Caolis-Luiffard*, or *Laxford*, which, on the N. separates it from Ashir. *Caolis-cuin* signifies "the narrow kyle;" and is so called, because of a narrow part about the middle of it, near Island-rannoch, where there is a ferry, which

which is not above 60 yards broad, though it widens greatly above, and branches out into two conſiderable kyles, or lochs, much frequented by herrings: it is alſo broad below this place, and incloſes a green iſland, called Stirks-iſland; near which is good anchoring ground for ſhipping. This kyle runs up into the land 5 or 6 miles.——*Caolis-Luiſſard*, or, as it is pronounced in the anglified way, *Laxford*, is a name compounded of two Celtic words, *Lua* and *ard*; epithets given it, and to the river which runs into the head of it from Lochſtack, from the rapid and high courſe of that ſtream.——But, though theſe two kyles comprehend the country called Edderachylis, the pariſh extends a great way farther north, and includes alſo the Davoch of Aſhir, which is a country of itſelf, interſected by a conſiderable kyle, called *Caolis-Inchard*, 2 miles long, often viſited by ſhoals of herrings; and it ſeparates that very rugged piece of ground, called *Kerru-garbh*, or "rugged quarter," from the north parts of Aſhir, which are the beſt portions of it. *Inchard* is a contraction of two Celtic words, *Innis* and *aird*, ſignifying "high meadow," becauſe of the high and rich paſture grounds, lying on each ſide of the kyle, and of the river, which runs into the head of it, and which go both by the ſame name.——As for the name of this part of the pariſh, which the natives turn in Engliſh, Alſhires, and ſometimes more improperly Oldſhoars, in Celtic, it is Aſhir, or, which is its real meaning, *Tir-fas*; a deſignation relative to that more fruitful and cultivated place, of which it was once a part, called Diurneſs, for it was the *Fair-hir* of old, or "waſte paſture grounds," belonging to the antient inhabitants of Diurneſs.

The pariſh is bounded on the W. by the Atlantic ocean, and on the N. by the North Sea, to Cape Wrath, that terror to mariners, which ſtands at the head of the line ſeparating the pariſh of Diurneſs from this; ſo that it is ſituated

in the angle formed by the Atlantic and North ſeas. The length, from N. to S. is 20 computed miles, and the breadth 10; Edderachylis being 12 in length, and 10 in breadth, and Aſhir 8 in length, and 7 in breadth.

Eccleſiaſtical State.——Beſides the pariſh church, there is a place appointed for public worſhip, and at the diſtance of ſix miles from it, on the N. ſide of the kyle of Inchard in Aſhir, where it is the incumbent's duty to officiate once in ſix weeks; but as the pariſh church is ſituated as commodiouſly as it poſſibly could be, and pretty centrically upon the coaſt, the attendance of the pariſhioners there, eſpecially in good weather, is rendered quite convenient, as boats can convey them eaſily from almoſt the moſt diſtant parts of the pariſh.—The church has undergone two ſeveral reparations within the laſt 20 years; has a ſlated roof; is well-ſeated; and every way fit for the accommodation of the pariſhioners. The manſe has alſo been twice repaired within the above time: it and ſome of the offices have alſo ſlated roofs, as all the houſes in the country ought to have, for nothing elſe can ſtand the violence of the weather ——Upon the firſt eſtabliſhment of the pariſh, the miniſter had 800 merks for his ſtipend, together with 40 merks for communion elements: but a reduction of it afterwards took place on occaſion of a contract, entered into by the church of Scotland with conſent of the then incumbent, with Lord Reay; in whoſe hand they ſettled the whole money collected *, as a fund for paying part of the ſtipends of the pariſhes of Tongue, Diurneſs, and Edderachylis, at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* The portion of that collection aſſigned to this pariſh was 11400 merks Scotch; the intereſt of which ſum being L. 28 : 10, together with L. 15 yearly out of Lord Reay's rent

* L. 1500 ſterling. See Vol. III. page 582.

rent, conſtitutes the whole ſtipend of Edderachylis at this time, or L 43 : 10 in all, communion elements included ; being not only below the minimum of the law, but one of the ſmalleſt in the church.—And what precludes the proſpect of any augmentation of the ſtipend, out of Lord Reay's eſtate, is a ſpecial proviſion he made in his contract with the church, that his eſtate ſhould, in all future time, remain unaffected by any further augmentation of the ſtipends, though a great part of that eſtate conſiſts of church lands. But he and his ſucceſſors have given the ſeveral miniſters of this pariſh a ſmall farm, adjoining to the glebe, at the old rent, which is of conſiderable benefit for grazing.—The glebe, which lies upon the coaſt, and near the church, is of ſome extent ; and has been valued at L. 40 Scotch *.

Population and Character of the People.—Upon a late ſurvey of this pariſh, the number of ſouls contained in it were found to be 1024 ; but, about 12 years ago, they exceeded this number conſiderably. One of the cauſes of this decreaſe has been the riſe that has happened in the price of black-cattle, which

* Upon the ſhore of the glebe, which extends about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, grows a profuſion of ſea-weed, of the ſort fitteſt for kelp : to this the preſent incumbent thought he had a right ; and that he might convert this ſea-weed to his own benefit, as a ſmall addition to his ſmall ſtipend ; but in this he unexpectedly found himſelf oppoſed by the family of Reay, who thought fit to diſpoſe of this very ſea-weed, as well as the reſt on their eſtate by leaſe to a Peterhead company ; and upon his giving interruption to them, he was obliged to defend himſelf in a proceſs for damages before the Court of Seſſion, who, after conſiderable expence and trouble to the incumbent, thought fit to decide the affair againſt him. He is thus deprived of the benefit of the whole ſea weed growing on his glebe, which was uſeful to him for other purpoſes, as manure to his land, and paſture to his cattle in the cold ſeaſon of the year.

gave occasion to some gentlemen, not residing in the parish, to take leases of extensive grazings in it, which they manage by a few servants. Other people of substance living in the parish have, on the same account, also taken leases of additional grazings, removing the old possessors. Several families besides, not satisfied with their circumstances, as well as several single persons of both sexes, have migrated to the S. country, and to cotton mills. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, however, was only 869 souls.

The number of baptisms in the year, as appears from the register, is at an average 35: but there is no record of burials kept; because the people, experiencing great inconvenience in carrying their dead to one or two burial places, as in former times, on account of the great distance, and the ruggedness of the roads, have made choice of other places, the fittest they could find, near their respective dwellings, for that purpose; so that, in this parish at present, there are no less than 8 different burying grounds, though some of the old ones are presently in disuse.

The inhabitants, or natives, (who are all, except a very few, of three names, M'Clays, Morrisons, and M'Cleods), are all Presbyterians, and have been so, for so long a time back, that the present generation have no remembrance of seeing in the country any residenter of another persuasion. Notwithstanding their detached and distant habitations, they are remarkable for their attendance upon divine ordinances and public worship, for the sobriety and regularity of their manners and lives, without being addicted to any particular vice in any remarkable degree. Their character for peaceableness, and their harmony among themselves, is uncommon. For the last 20 years and more, scarce one instance has happened of any quarrel or fight among them, or so much as of any of them receiving any bodily hurt from another. From their practice

of

of fishing, and early and constant acquaintance with the sea, they are excellent boatmen, as well as ingenious, and ready to learn any mechanical business; so that scarcely any artificers in the parish but are self-taught. And yet there are among them pretty good carpenters and boat-wrights, dry-stone masons, coopers, and net-makers; and, as for shoe-makers, there is scarce a man in the parish but can make his own shoes. They love also to appear as decent and clean as possible; so that the fishers, who frequent this place, have declared they make the most decent and cleanly appearance of any Highlanders on the whole coast. The Muses too are partial to the natives of this place, as if the air of the Edderachylies mountains had inspiration in it; for there have been, of late years, several poets in this parish, whose compositions, mostly of the lyric kind, have been admired by good judges, and have shewn them to be possessed of uncommon parts and genius.

Black-Cattle, Sheep, Goats, and Horses.—The principal dependance of the inhabitants for their living is upon their black-cattle; and, by a late enumeration, they are found to have 2573 heads of the cow kind. The quality and size of their cattle are equal to those of any other place in the Highlands. The price of an ordinary cow for droving, is 50s.—of a good one, L. 3;—and of the best, L. 4. An ordinary milch-cow sells at L. 3;—a good one at L. 4;—and the best at L. 5. There are drovers, in the country, who buy up such cattle as are sent to market; and, after driving them to the south of Scotland, and sometimes to England, dispose of them commonly to English drovers. But, though the inhabitants deal principally in black cattle, yet, in the opinion of the most knowing people, the nature of the country seems more adapted to the rearing of sheep; and it is thought, that it is owing to the inattention and carelessness of the farmers, about that most useful of all animals,

nimals, that they do not thrive better with them. Foxes, indeed, are numerous, and very destructive, and not easily destroyed, because of the rocks and numberless lurking places which the ruggedness of the country affords them; eagles, and other ravenous birds, destroy many lambs; but by diligent exertions persisted in, this country might be, in time, cleared of all those noxious creatures. Nay, it is more than probable, were Lord Reay to parcel out his lands in proper sheep walks, annexing fit parts of his deer forest to the nearest and most proper dwellings upon the shore, that none in Scotland would equal those upon his estate, and that he might treble his rent by it. The only inconvenience would be, that he would, by this plan, greatly depopulate his country.

The whole number of sheep, presently in this parish, is found to be 2629. The greatest part of them are of the Galloway breed, having black or brocked faces, and their wool is coarse. A sheep, with a lamb, is supposed to be worth 7s. and a good wedder, 9s. But there is also a mixture of an English breed with the common Galloway, which are polled, with white faces; these have rather finer wool, and longer bodies, than the Galloway kind. Sometimes butchers from Inverness, and other places, travel through the country, and buy what wedders are to be sold in those parts; and seamen have also a great demand for mutton, often greater than can be answered here.

Of all parts of the Highlands, this would seem to be one of the fittest and best for goats; yet it is the observation of the oldest and most judicious people, that they have not for some years answered here as formerly; whether owing to something unfavourable in the weather, to the increase of beasts and birds of prey, or both. The present number in all this parish, is 1307. The only market for them is selling them

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to ſea-faring men, when they fall low in proviſions: they commonly give 7s. or 8s. for an *he*, and leſs for a *ſhe*, goat.

As for horſes, the principal uſe of them here, is the rearing of them for ſale, there being but little occaſion for theſe animals in riding or huſbandry. The kind bred here is the Garrons, which are never houſed, feed themſelves in the mountains in ſummer and harveſt, and paſture near the houſes in winter and ſpring. They are of of a good ſize; and not inferior in quality to any in the the Highlands. Some of the beſt are ſuppoſed to be worth 7 or 8 guineas. Here they are bought by dealers, in the country, at a year old, who carry them to the Orkney iſlands, and there diſpoſe of them at good prices: of late, purchaſers from the ſouth have found their way into the country, who buy all ſorts at good prices. The number preſently in the pariſh is 351.

Rent, Fiſhings, &c.—The preſent rent of the pariſh is L.230 ſterling; but the tack-duty, paid out of moſt of the different poſſeſſions, has been of late greatly augmented; that of ſome of them to double, or more, of what they paid 20 years ago: yet it is reported, that when Lord Reay became proprietor of Edderachylis, properly ſo called, the whole of it was held by a gentleman in wadſet for the intereſt of 6000 merks.—There are only two rivers in this pariſh where ſalmon are caught. One of them is at Inchard, which never paid any ſeparate rent to the proprietor; but the tackſman of the neighbouring grounds has the profits of it, which amount only from 3 to 6 barrels in the year. The other is Laxford, where there is a conſiderable quantity of fiſh killed, and of an excellent quality; but the fiſhing does not commence ſooner than the middle of April, either there or on all this coaſt. The fiſhing of this river, and of others within Lord Reay's eſtate, is rented by a company of merchants in Peterhead, who cure and export

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the fish to foreign markets, without selling any of it in the country: they have an agent, in the country, for managing their affairs, upon a farm of Lord Reay's estate in Diurness. This company have a lease also of the kelp-shores of his estate; which, if properly managed, would prove an object of great importance, as these shores are very extensive, and covered almost every where with vast quantities of the best sea-weed; but the small tenants, occupying the lands next the shore, are the only manufacturers, who for their labour have but 30s. per ton, paid upon delivery of the kelp. As they work only when they can afford time from their other necessary affairs, the quantity of manufactured kelp falls far short of what it might, and would be, were a sufficient number of hands employed, and better encouragement given.

The rivers of this country abound also in trout, which are excellent in their season, as do also the less considerable streams, of which there are several. The most valuable of these is the kind called white trout, somewhat like salmon. Another kind, found also in plenty in these rivers, is the darker sort, with red and black spots. Some of these, as well as of the white trout, are found equal in size to grilses or young salmon.

The lakes are stored with variety of trout of all sizes. Of these Lochmoir, at the distance of 7 or 8 miles from the sea, is 3 miles long by half a mile broad, and never freezes in the severest season. Lochstalk is 2 miles in length, and half a mile in breadth. Both these lochs are connected by a small stream; and out of the last mentioned runs the considerable river of Laxford. All these lakes and rivers form a pretty straight line, which divide Edderachylis from the lands of Ashir, and was formerly the march separating these properties from each other. Besides these great lakes, a vast number of smaller ones are interspersed amongst the mountains, most of them abounding with trout.

Surface and Agriculture.—The face of the country, like the reſt of the Highlands, is mountainous and rocky, and, to a ſtranger, ſhockingly rugged. The more inland parts, which conſtitutes Lord Reay's deer foreſt, are nothing but a vaſt group of dreadful mountains, with their ſummits piercing the clouds, and divided only by deep and very narrow vallies, whoſe declivities are ſo rugged and ſteep, as to be dangerous to travellers not furniſhed with guides. Yet theſe wilds afford excellent paſture, in many places, to all ſorts of cattle, being clothed, to the tops of the higheſt mountains, with clover and daiſies, and other rich paſture. In many places numbers of deer are to be ſeen, very large and fat, eſpecially in the harveſt ſeaſon; for looking after which certain perſons, called forreſters, are appointed with ſalaries, in convenient parts of the country. The bounds of the foreſt are very extenſive, making a conſiderable, if not the greater part, of Lord Reay's eſtate; but that part of it which is reckoned the beſt, and abounds moſt with deer, is that which belongs to this pariſh. The inhabited places are only thoſe next the ſea, and ſome others on the confines of the foreſt, which happen to be ſomewhat level, and thereby fitter for rearing cattle, or the culture of corn; and though, towards the coaſt, the ruggedneſs of the ground be leſs, and the mountains ſeemingly ſubſide, or preſent a leſs awful and horrid appearance, yet rocks and marſhes, lakes and mountains, though of leſs magnitude, are all along continually intermixed; ſo that, excepting paſture for cattle, it ſeems but very indifferently calculated by nature for any other purpoſe. It is matter of no ſmall difficulty, even on the ſhore, to find a lot fit for a houſe to ſtand on conveniently, without under water, or ſome other remarkable diſadvantage. —And as for the villages or dwellings, where the inhabitants make a ſhift to rear ſome corn, they have ſo great labour in clearing their little plots (many of which are no larger than the

floor

floor of an ordinary room), by digging, turning out great stones, and grubbing up bushes and underwood; that, excepting the benefit of the straw, for saving the lives of their cattle in spring, considering especially their toil in cultivation, they would surely find their account in abstaining from agriculture totally, and spending their time in some handicraft employment; but this must be understood concerning such as do not work themselves personally, but must hire others to labour for them, for that makes very great odds in this country.—It is true there are ploughs drawn by horses, no less than 10 in different parts of the parish; but there is so little ground for them to go upon, that 2 constantly employed, as in the low country, could easily perform all the work of the ten *.

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* The instrument chiefly used for tillage, is called a *Cascroim*, or crooked foot; being a crooked piece of wood, the lower end somewhat thick, about two feet and an half in length, pretty straight, and armed at the end with iron, made thin and square to cut the earth. The upper end of this instrument is called the shaft, whereas the lower is termed the head: the shaft above the crook is pretty straight, being 6 foot long and tapering upwards to the end, which is slender; just below the crook or angle, which is an obtuse one, there must be a hole, wherein a strong peg must be fixed, for the work man's right foot, in order to push the instrument into the earth; while in the mean time standing upon his left foot, and holding the shaft firm with both hands, when he has in this manner driven the head far enough into the earth with one bend of his body, he raises the clod by the iron headed part of his instrument, making use of the heel, or hind part of the head as a fulcrum, in so doing, turns it over always towards the left hand; and then proceeds to push for another clod in the same form. To see six or eight men all at work with this instrument, as is often to be seen, standing all upon one leg and pushing with the other, would be a pretty curious sight to a stranger.

With all its disadvantages the *Cascroim* of all instruments is the fittest for turning up the ground in the country; for among so many rocks, a plough can do little or nothing, and, where no rocks are, the earth is commonly so marshy, that cattle are not able to pass over it, without sinking deep.

Therefore

The crops raiſed in this country are only oats and bear alternately. The kind of oats which anſwers beſt, is found to be a large bodied grain of a black colour, and a thick coat, which ripens early, and meals well; and the bear is the kind commonly uſed in the Highlands. Potatoes, though leſs than 30 years ago ſcarcely known here, now conſtitute a conſiderable part of the food of the inhabitants.

Notwithſtanding the ruggedneſs of the ground, and the wild appearance of this country, ſcarce any place affords a more commodious habitation to poor people, if there are any ſuch in it. For upon a farm of 20s. and ſometimes only of 10s. many families want none of the neceſſaries of life; having bread and potatoes, fiſh and ſome fleſh, wool and clothing, milk, butter, and cheeſe, all the fruit of their own induſtry, and the produce of their farms. Their fuel they have alſo good, and on eaſy terms, every farm having plenty of peat moſſes free to all.——Travelling, it muſt be owned, is difficult and diſagreeable, there being no roads, but ſuch as the feet of men and cattle have made; yet, when one has occaſion to come to it, and remain there, he will find it as convenient for the purpoſes of living as moſt parts of the High-

Therefore it is of pretty general uſe in the Highlands, and is of great antiquity. One man can turn over more ground with it in a day than four are able to do with a common ſpade. For a ſingle man to delve as much ground as will require two pecks of bear ſeed in a day is nothing uncommon; nay, ſome have ſown four in a day's work. There are many inſtances of ſingle men in this pariſh, who with good ſeaſons have reared as much corn as, with the help of potatoes, has ſubſiſted families of 6 or 7 perſons plentifully, by the *Caſſcroim*. But for this they have one advantage, denied to many others, that there is always plenty of manure; for beſides what the cattle furniſh, there is almoſt every where the greateſt profuſion of ſea-ware, which makes the beſt manure, eſpecially when cut early in the ſpring and mixed with earth.

lands. Lying on a coast well known to sea-faring people, and frequented by shipping, any necessaries the place itself cannot supply are easier got than in most parts of the kingdom.

Harbours, Fishery, &c.—What Edderachylis has been, and still is, happy in, far beyond other parts of the Highlands, is the fishing upon its coast, and its many excellent bays and harbours, where shipping of all sizes can enter, and moor close to the land, at all hours of the day and night, in perfect safety. Of these harbours are, *Loch-Badeaut*, erroneously marked Badwel in some draughts of the coast; *Loch-Calva*, which signifies literally in the Celtic, "good harbour;" *Laxford*, having several good anchorages, of which *Island an Erinich*, or "the Irishman's island," is the best; *Feaunack-Moir*, near the entry, is a very safe place; Inchard has also a good harbour; and so has Kyles-cuin, near Stirk's-island.——There has not only been a greater quantity of fish killed on the coast of this parish, for some years past, than on the coast of any other place in the Highlands, but more herrings than what have been killed on all the coasts of all the Highlands put together. Here there is no person whose sole business is fishing, consequently no fish is sold, excepting herring; yet every man is a fisher, and fishes for himself. Every village, and almost every house, has a boat, nets, and all sorts of fishing tackle; yea, some householders have 2 or 3 boats, for answering different purposes. In summer, glassocks, or says, are got in great plenty. In July, shoals of mackarel, the forerunner of the herring, appear. Soon afterwards, almost every creek and harbour are quite full of herrings; and sometimes they remain off and on the coast to about Christmas; at other times, they leave the bays all at once in September, and no more is seen of them that year.—— Haddocks are killed on this coast also, and in some years in great numbers, and they are commonly

larger and fatter than in almoſt any other place; but again for ſome years, few or none of them are found. The uncommon goodneſs of them, and the other fiſh caught here, muſt be imputed to the proximity of the Atlantic and North ſeas, and that there are fewer in purſuit of them than in more populous places.

In the year 1789, three veſſels from Murray, bound for Barra-head fiſhing, being forced into Inchard by ſtreſs of weather, and wind-bound there for ſome days, thought fit to try their luck where they were, and met with wonderful ſucceſs in killing both cod and ling; ſo that they were in ſuſpenſe, whether to proceed to Barra or remain there. They declared that, from former experience, they could hardly expect ſo great ſucceſs, in ſo ſhort a time, in Barra; that the cod here were larger and fatter than there, at the ſame time of the year; and, if the ling would come in their proper ſeaſon, which was not then commenced in this place, in as great plenty as they uſed to do at Barra-head, they could not but think this a better fiſhing ſtation; becauſe what ling they had taken here, they found to be very good, and rather larger, as well as the cod, than thoſe they uſed to find there; ſo that it is more than probable, had the joint ſtock company a proper repreſentation laid before them of the fitneſs of this pariſh for a fiſhing ſtation, they would conſider it, (as it in all likelihood is), incomparably more deſerving of being at the expence of an eſtabliſhment for the purpoſe of fiſhing, than either Ullapool, or Tobermorie, or perhaps any other place in the Highlands.

Iſlands.—In Edderachylis, and on the coaſt of it, there is a number of ſmall iſlands of different ſizes, many of them affording paſture to ſmall cattle, eſpecially lambs, in ſummer and harveſt. In theſe ſpots they require no herding, and are ſafe from foxes. The only inhabited iſland is Handa. It is

ſeparated from the main land by a narrow ſound, through which veſſels paſs with good pilots. Its name is Celtic, either *Aon-da*, "the iſland of one colour," or *Aon-taobh*, "the iſland of "one ſide;" in either of which ſenſes the appellation is juſt and applicable. For viewing it from the ſea upon the S. it appears wholly duſky and green; and riſes gradually by a gentle aſcent from the ſea upon the S. ſide towards the N. ſo as to conſiſt of one face or ſide, and to have nothing upon the N. but one tremenduous rock of 80 or 100 fathoms high in ſome places. It is a mile ſquare, having ſome fertile ſpots for rearing corn and hay, but the natural and proper application is the converting it to a ſheep walk, as there no foxes could annoy the flocks, nor contagion find acceſs to it. The preſent rent is L. 12 ſterling *.

Migratory

* Here once lived *Little John M'Dhoil-mhich-Huiſkdan*, a gentleman of the Aſſint M'Leods, who were a branch of the M'Leods of Lewis, or *Shiol Torquil*. He was low of ſtature, but of matchleſs ſtrength, and ſkill in arms; kept always a bierlin or galley in this place with 12 or 20 armed men, ready for any enterprize. Some alledge he practiſed piracy; but of this there is no certainty. By him it was that judge Moriſon of Lewis, of whom ſeveral reſpectable families now living there are deſcended, was ſlain. This judge had King James VI's. commiſſion for maintaining juſtice and good order in that country; and though he was murdered by this M'Leod, it was for no perſonal quarrel, or injury done M'Leod himſelf, but in revenge of his being inſtrumental in putting to death one of that family, who acted as laird of Lewis. The preceding laird of that place dying without lawful iſſue, but leaving a number of natural ſons, (ſome ſay 60), a contention aroſe among them about the ſucceſſion to the eſtate. The eldeſt being not ſo popular among the name, as one other eſpecially, the ſon of a gentlewoman whoſe parents were of conſiderable influence among the tribe, was obliged to leave Lewis, and live upon the main land. Judge Moriſon being informed that there was a French veſſel employed in killing fiſh contrary to law upon the neighbouring coaſt, ſent for the reputed laird, who lived near that place, and taking alſo a party along with him, boarded this veſſel, and made her a prize; but whether by ſtreſs of weather or deſign, they came

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Migratory Birds.—Island Handa is remarkable for being the resort of vast numbers of sea-fowl of different kinds, which about

to anchor below the house of the eldest of the brothers upon the main land, who in this way getting his rival within his power, had him immediately put to death by hanging him up, thinking no more was necessary to his succeeding to the possession of the estate of Lewis. But the death of the favourite young man so irritated the whole clan of M'Leod, that they resolved nothing except the death of the judge should atone for it, and this *Little John M'Dhoil mhich Huishdan*, being universally reputed the fittest person for this enterprize, it was committed to him accordingly. The judge, informed of his danger, thought fit to come and wait on the master of Reays who then lived in Diurness, about the Christmas holidays, in order to prevail with him, to protect him, and to threaten John M'Leod from atttempting any thing against him. But John M'Leod being told of the judge's having left his boat at Inverchirkak in Assint, waited for him there in his return, slew both him and his brother; and after this went to Lewis and married the judge's widow.——On account of the barbarity and cruelty of these M'Leods at this time, and their murder of a very promising youth who was the rightful heir of the estate of Lewis, immediately upon his coming home to his estate from Edinburgh, where he had his education under the King's eye, and this murder of judge Morison, of whose integrity his majesty had a high opinion, the king disposed of Lewis to a company of adventures from Fife and Dundee, whose history is well known.

Among the numerous islands on this coast is one called *Elan a Bhriu*, or, the Island of the Judge, from the above mentioned Judge Morison. After he had been slain, his friends in Lewis came in a galley to bring home his corpse; but contrary winds arising drove them with the body on board to this island, where they found it convenient, after taking his bowels out, to bury them; and the wind soon after changing, they arrived in safety at home. This small island, which furnishes good pasture for lambs, being about 4 acres of extent, is possessed by the present minister of Edderachylis, as it has been by all his predecessors in office by the gift of the family of Reay.

All these islands, and many more, some of them inhabited, and others affording excellent pasture, and of considerable extent, from Roe a Stoir in Assint to Stroma in Orkney, are said to have been granted in property, and included in a charter to one Ferchard Beton, a native of Isla, and a famous physician,

about the end of April every year come to it to breed and hatch their young. Their numbers are so great, that the whole face of

physician, at his own request, by one of the Stewarts, Kings of Scotland, whom he had cured of some distemper. This Ferchard was physician to the M'Kays of Far; and received from them, in exchange for his right to these islands, a piece of ground near Tongue, called Melness, where he lived himself, and some of his offspring after him; but the M'Kays found means to recover possession of Melness long since; and yet it is said Ferchard's posterity remain still in the country under the name of M'Kay.

There is yet one small island in a fresh water loch, that deserve some notice, on account of memorable events that happened in it. It lies in Loch-Stack, so termed from a mountain having the figure of a stack of corn, but of immense height, near it. In this small island M'Kay Laird of Far, chief of the name, had a hunting house with a small garden, which on occasion of his visiting the distant parts of his forest in the hunting season, he resorted to for some time, and not only he, but after him, other gentlemen have been in use to pass some days in the same place, when employed in the diversion of hunting. While Sir Hugh M'Kay of Far, the father of Donald first Lord Reay, happened to pass sometime in this island, it was the custom of the people in the neighbourhood to make him and his company presents of milk, fresh meat, butter, and cheese; and in this way the wife of a man occupying the next farm or grazing called Loan, who seems to have been of the better sort, came to him with her present also; and being a young woman, and as it would seem of uncommon beauty, Sir Hugh took a fancy for her person, wanting her to gratify his sensual inclinations; but she rejected his proposal disdainfully, telling him she would not live to commit such a base deed, while her own husband lived, and so wanting to return home, she found she would not be permitted to leave the island. Next day Sir Hugh, with one or more attendants, took a walk towards the house, where the husband lived, and desired him to come along with them as they returned to the Island, which as he was doing, either Sir Hugh himself, or some of his company, stepping behind, all at once ran him through the body with a durk, took off the head, which they brought carefully along with them, and upon their return presented to his wife. Then the poor woman fearing, by persisting in her opposition, to meet with her husband's fate, was obliged to submit to Sir Hugh's inclinations, and of that commerce was Donald

of these tremendous rocks, and the sea in the neighbourhood, appear covered with them. There they remain all the summer

nald M'Kay begot, who was the first laird of Edderachylis of the name of M'Kay.

Who the earliest inhabitants of Edderachylis have been, is not now easily discoverable. After the most diligent inquiry among the oldest and most intelligent people, all that can be learned is, that two or three centuries ago this place was but thinly inhabited; and, that the inhabitants were such as held their possessions by no legal tenure, paid no rent, and acknowledged no landlord or superior. The first who are said to have held it in property were M'Leods, a branch of the Lewis family, or *Shiol Torquil*: but prior to their establishment as proprietors, tradition reports that in the time of the Norwegean kingdom of the western isles, these islanders made frequent descents upon the coast, and sometimes not without bloodshed, while they attempted plundering the few inhabitants of their cattle, and carrying them off in their boats. The last of the M'Leod family, who died the acknowledged proprietor of Edderachylis, and seems not to have been of the family of Assint, was called *Mache a Leister*; probably on account of the first or principal man of the tribe being remarkable for skill in making arrows, for *Mache a Leister* is, literally, "the son of the arrowmaker." He having no children by his wife, brought over from Assint, a nephew of his wife, called James, the son of Roderick, the son, John Moir M'Leod, to live in family with him, and succeed him in the possession of the estate at his death, which accordingly happened; but he, being of a turbulent and factious disposition, had quarrels with several of his neighbours, particularly the Morisons of Diurness and Ashir, some of whom he put to death. The Laird of Farr also, Sir Hugh M'Kay, having occasion to remit a sum of money to Edinburgh, the bearer of it next day returned to him, after being robbed only one day's journey from his house, by a party of armed men having their faces disguised with black paint, whom every one supposed to have been sent upon that enterprize by James M'Leod of Edderachylis. As the Morisons of themselves were not able to bring James to task for the injuries done themselves, they contrived a plan for it, by bringing the M'Kays to their assistance. The principal man of the name of Morison at that time in Ashir, had in his house and family, a bastard son of the Laird of Farr's (Donald M'Kay) the same already mentioned, as begot in the island of Loch-Stack; him he proposed both to the M'Kays and to his own friends, to be

mer and harvest till the middle of September, when they migrate no body knows whither. Many of those who live nearest

the Laird of Edderachylis, if by their joint efforts James M'Leod was made away with; and all agreeing to this proposal, the plan for effecting it was to engage a cousin of James M'Leod's, one Donald M'Leod, son to Murdow, son to John Moir of Assint, to take away his life: this business, he was reckoned the likeliest, and fittest to perform, being a notorious ruffian, and, in order to hinder James's friends from prosecuting revenge afterwards when the deed should be perpetrated by one of themselves. The reward promised Donald, induced him readily to undertake it, which was, that he should have the half of Edderachylis for himself, and his offspring, and that the mother of this Donald M'Kay, the bastard, should become his wife. Hereupon, a party of the Morisons from Ashir, headed by Donald M'Kay the bastard, and Donald M'Leod, who among other qualifications, was incomparably skilled in handling the long bow, marched in a dark morning for Edderachylis, though not directly towards Scoury, where James M'Leod lived, but to some other places nearer them, where James's best friends, and ablest supporters dwelt, in order to dispatch them first; which having done, and three or four men, whom they surprized in their beds in their several dwellings, cruelly slain, they proceeded to Scoury; where, after slaying two or three more of the M'Leods, they found James, upon getting some notice of their approach, had taken shelter in a small house he had sometime before built in the middle of a lake in Scoury. But with arrows, having fire bound to them, this house, being thatched with straw or reeds, was soon made to blaze, when he was obliged to come out; whereupon Donald, his cousin german, killed him dead with a musket bullet. And as James had a son of his along with him in this island, Donald did for him also; for after he had swam to the farther side of the lake, and endeavoured to run for his life, he slew him with an arrow from his long bow.

James M'Leod, or M'Rory, being in this manner slain, Donald thought himself sure of possessing at least half of Edderachylis, according to agreement, but here he found himself mistaken; the Morisons now told him, he must be content with some other reward, for that Donald M'Kay must have all Edderachylis: whereupon Donald in a rage declared that would not do, and immediately betaking himself to his friends in Assint, in a short time returned with a body of men to take possession. But the Morisons, aware of his motions, prepared to meet and fight him upon his first entering the country;

and

eſt this iſland, as well as its inhabitants, make it their buſineſs, as often as they can, to come with boats to this place, and

 beſides

and as both parties were ready for an engagement in a place called Maldy, Sir Hugh M'Kay of Far preſented himſelf to them upon the top of a hill hard by with 300 men, and finding how matters ſtood, immediately called both before him to a conference in order to an accomodation, which none of them durſt refuſe. At this interview Sir Hugh propoſed to Donald M'Leod, that he ſhould reſign his pretenſions to Edderachylis in favour of his ſon Donald, and that he himſelf, in conſideration of his doing ſo, would grant him other land near himſelf, called the Davoch of Hope, as alſo Donald M'Kay's mother to be his wife; which propoſal he at once agreeing to, the whole difference ended and peace and harmony took place. This promiſe Sir Hugh actually fulfilled, giving Donald the Davoch of Hope, where he lived to an extreme old age, with a family of ſix or ſeven ſons, continuing the ſame ruffian to the laſt. He was buried in the kirk of Diurneſs, where, upon the ſouth wall on the inſide of the building, there is a monument of his with the initials of his name, and his arms cut out in the ſtone, and the year 1619. What became of the ſons cannot be diſcovered, but the lands of Hope are in the poſſeſſion of the Reay family, as a part of their eſtate.

In this manner came Edderachylis into the hands of the M'Kays, or that branch of them who call themſelves the family of Scoury; but of them there were only three proprietors before it became a part of the eſtate of Reay; the firſt of theſe was Donald already mentioned, the ſecond his ſon Hugh, and the third his ſon Hugh, who was the famous general M'Kay, commander in chief of the forces in Scotland under King William III. He was born in Scoury, this pariſh, and as George Lord Reay married his daughter, he gave him Edderachylis, as her tocher.

Next as to Aſhir or Faſhir, the northern part of this pariſh, which, as before obſerved, was the waſte or uninhabited parts of Diurneſs. It, as well as Diurneſs, as far back as our information goes, was church-lands, belonging of old to the biſhoprick of Caithneſs, and they were diſpoſed of by one of the Popiſh biſhops of that ſee to a Lewisman, one Ay Moriſon, ſon of Norman, who coming by ſea for a cargo of meal to Thurſo, near the Epiſcopal ſeat, happened to fall in love with a ſiſter of the biſhop's, and married her, and as her tocher received all Diurneſs and Aſhir, a good and extenſive highland eſtate. What was the name of this country, prior

to

besides catching and killing great numbers of them, to the great benefit of their families in the way of provision, they make considerable profit of the feathers, bartering them commonly for an equal weight of wool. The flesh of the birds, (the young ones excepted), has a fishy taste, offensive to most palates. Three men, at different times, lost their lives by falling from the rocks, where they were unhappily scrambling in pursuit of them and their eggs, in the memory of the present inhabitants.

Miscellaneous Remarks.—In Edderachylis is plenty of all sorts of game; deer, roes, mountain hares, which vary their colour according to the season of the year, being white in winter, and brownish gray in summer; moor fowls, black cocks, and tarmigans,

to this event, cannot now be ascertained by any traditional account; but Morison at this time gave it its present name of Diurness, from the place of his nativity, so that it cannot be considered as local or descriptive; but upon being established in his newly acquired estate, he brought over with him from Lewis a colony of no less than sixty families, mostly of his own name, to whom he gave lands upon his own property; hence it is that the name of Morison is so prevalent in these parts, for though the property be fallen into other hands, the stock of the inhabitants remains. Some generations after this, it happened that the descendant lineal of this Ay Morison died childless, and left a widow, a Sutherland woman, daughter of one Donald Bain Matheson then proprietor of Sheeness. This woman, finding herself ill used by her late husband's relations, eloped in the night, carried with her the rights by which the Morisons held Diurness, went to Dun-robin, the Earl of Sutherland's seat, and delivered these papers into his hands. Possessed of these rights only, the Earl considered himself as intitled to claim Diurness for himself, and consequently had great bickerings with the Morisons to bring them to pay rent to him; but they continuing obstinate and refractory, and being encouraged in an under-hand manner by the laird of Far and his agents, the Earl at length became tired of contending with them, and agreed with the laird of Far, ancestor of Lord Reay, to give Diurness to him for a feu duty of 60 marks in the year; and in this manner came the Reay family to be possessed of this estate, but the feu duty, though still continued, is now reduced to a trifle.

tarmigans, wild-pigeons, partridges, and all kinds of ſmall birds, with great varieties of ſea fowls.

There are in the pariſh conſiderable woods, in the more inland parts, fit for building houſes, and making farm utenſils, moſtly birch, and far from the ſhore: thoſe which antiently grew upon the ſhore, of which there are ſtill ſome remains in different places, have been deſtroyed.

There are appearances of mines in this pariſh, which have never yet been inveſtigated by perſons of ſkill, as well as white marble, particularly in *Foinne bhein*, a part of the deer foreſt. Near Iſland-Handa, upon the main land, is found a kind of light grey coloured ſtone, heavy, and perfectly free of ſand and gritty matter, and of ſo fine a conſiſtence as to admit of being cut and faſhioned with a knife, and bored through with a gimlet, without theſe tools being hurt by it. It is uſed by many for ſinkers to their hand lines in fiſhing.

The air is reckoned wholeſome, though often damp from the vicinity of the ocean, and of very high mountains, but the frequency of very violent ſtorms purifies it. The thatched houſes, which all the houſes here are to a very few, require a new cover every year to render them water tight; and the ſtuff uſed for this purpoſe is either ſtraw, long graſs, ruſhes, fern, or heath; but this cover muſt be bound artfully with new ropes made of either heath, ſtraw, or the crops of trees twiſted, all which occaſions no ſmall trouble and expence to the inhabitants, yet without them, every houſe would infallibly be unroofed, and deſtroyed in a ſhort time. Rains here are frequent and heavy, but not quite ſo frequent as in moſt places to the S. of this coaſt, and the weather is generally milder; for though ſnow falls deep ſometimes, and remains long upon the higheſt mountains, yet upon the ſhore it is ſeldom of any continuance, for the expoſure to the S. W. and the ſhelter from the ſtorms of the N. and E. by the hills and rocks, render the habitations

comfortable; so that many of the cattle, cows, and horses, as well as sheep and goats, lie in the fields without being housed at all the whole year, and look and thrive better than such as have been house fed. Vegetation also commences early in these parts; but the ground for husbandry is never begun to be broke up till March, as rain and wet weather before that period is reckoned more hurtful to it in that situation. April is the seed time for oats, and May for potatoes and bear; and in August and September, all the harvest work about hay, bear, and oats, are performed, and these are all gathered in with favourable weather against the beginning of October.

There have been several instances of longevity in this parish; and at present there live in it two or more men betwixt 80 and 90 years, one of whom, with good weather, travels four miles to hear sermon, and returns the same day to his house.

There are none living in this parish having any property in land, for, as has been already observed, Lord Reay is sole proprietor of it, though there are several families of considerable substance in the grazing way, possessing extensive pasture grounds; but by far the greater part of the parishioners are subtenants of the tacksmen of the family of Reay. And though Lord Reay exacts no services for his own particular behoof from the people of this parish, which lies at a great distance from his own seat at Tongue; yet that is not the case with respect to the tacksmen. They parcel out among poor people, as under tenants, such farms and out skirts of their possessions as they do not labour for their own immediate behoof, upon condition of paying the full rent of their different small holdings, and some other small items; besides these, the subtenant engages to perform such and such services, by sea or land, as their masters affairs may require; especially in harvest and spring, they must be ready at a call, to do what work may be assigned them; and, as they have no lease for their possessions,

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the maſters orders cannot be diſputed, but at the riſk of being turned out at the term, when, with the character of being refractory, no other tackſman will be ready to receive them, and they muſt be ſet a-drift, which is a dreadful ſituation to a poor man with a wife and family. A tackſman, whoſe lands are extenſive, has it in his power in this manner to eaſe himſelf of a good deal of expence in the way of hiring ſervants to do his work, which is a great advantage, eſpecially in ſuch a place as Edderachylis, where ſervants are ſcarce by reaſon of ſo many of them being employed in kelp, fiſhing, and the management of cattle. The rents therefore each of theſe ſubtenants will have to pay, muſt not exceed what will be barely ſufficient for his circumſtances, 20s. or perhaps 10s. and often not ſo much, that the tackſmen may have as many hands to work for him as poſſible; but as he gives them commonly their maintenance when he employs them, to eaſe himſelf in this article he calls them out the ſeldomer.

Servants being ſcarce in this country, ſome tackſmen have fallen upon a way of providing themſelves, by giving a piece of land equivalent to the wages of a ſervant for a year to a man with a family, on condition of giving him his ſervice for one half of that time, by alternate weeks, and paying half the rent of the land along with this ſervice. But the fitteſt and beſt kind of ſervants for this country are the domeſtic kind, having no family of their own. About 30 years ago, and later, the beſt men-ſervants here were hired for 7 or 8 merks in the half year; but now, they muſt have 20s. with perquiſites: —the beſt maid-ſervants then were ſatisfied with 3 merks wages in the half year; but now they get 6 or 8 merks, alſo with perquiſites. Many ſervants of both ſexes have of late fallen into a way of going to the ſouthern parts of the nation, where menial ſervice ſtands higher; and yet, when diſtreſs overtakes them there, they often make their way back to their

friends in this country, and become a burden to them. Many also have entered into the army as recruits; and several find employment on board the bounty fleet in catching herrings; whilst women and children make some money by gutting, &c.

There are but few in this parish that may be called real objects of charity. The native inhabitants are all connected by blood, and few strangers dwell among them, so that they assist each other, and scarcely any are in want of bread. The poorest, to a very few, have some cattle which they can call their own; and if any go about for charity as beggars, they are commonly such as come from distant parishes, or perfect strangers. The only public fund for relief of the poor in this place, is the Sabbath collections, which is distributed by the Session once in the year, or in two years; and its annual amount is commonly from L. 3 to L. 4; but in times of a great herring fishing it exceeds this sum, for many of the bounty fishers attend public worship, too often for information where the fish abounds most, than on account of devotion. It is to be regretted, that the toleration allowed by law to such men to prosecute their fishing upon Saturday evenings and Monday mornings, is too often abused by breaking the Sabbath rest. Yet there are among them who seldom or never send out any boats, either on the Saturday evenings or Monday mornings, and yet they are known to make out their cargoes as soon as the others, for, as they declare themselves, their men exert themselves more vigorously, in consequence of that rest, all the week over, so as to prove more successful *.

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* The only monuments of antiquity in this parish are the ruins of four dry stone round towers, supposed to have been the work of the Norwegeans. Two of them have been used as cemeteries for burying the dead down to the present times, which practice had its arise probably from their being a secu-

rity

It is pleasant to observe the progressive state of civilization in the Highlands of Scotland, and in this place in particular, compared with the ferocity and barbarity of the last century. Then, a Swedish vessel of considerable size, happening to cast anchor in Kyles-cuin, attracted the rapacious attempts of some young men in the neighbourhood; who, to the number of 12, boarding her in the night with blackened faces, shot the captain in his cabin, mastered the crew, wounding such as resisted, and then carried off all they coveted of the goods, leaving the remaining part of the hands to sail off with their ship. Next year, another ship appearing on the coast, and continuing to hover nearer land than any of the beholders could understand the meaning of, a number of men from the shore, observing her motions, took a boat, and made towards her; but approaching pretty near, saw several men from the ship jumping into the long boat, armed with muskets and other weapons; and so, not liking their appearance, thought best to sheer off with all speed towards the shore; but, finding themselves pursued by the long boat, and ready to be overtaken, they landed upon the first island they came to, but in landing received the fire of several muskets, by which one man was slain, who cried out as he was dying, "I have got what I deserved," meaning his having killed the captain of the Swedish vessel, for he it was who shot him. Upon this, the long boat returned, and the vessel sailed off.

' *Disadvantages.* —— 1. The want of arable ground for producing corn. With the best seasons, the crops raised in this parish will hardly be sufficient for two-thirds of the inhabitants; yet,

rity from the ravages of wolves, which were numerous and destructive in this country, and where they were not wholly destroyed till of late.

yet, by being ſituated at no great diſtance from Caithneſs, this diſadvantage is in ſome meaſure obviated.

2. The want of roads within the country, and towards other places. Were the people called out, and made to work upon the roads according to the ſtatute, travelling here might in time be rendered commodious and eaſy.

3. The want of ſchools. There is indeed a legal ſalary of 100 merks for a ſchoolmaſter, but that, without other emoluments and ſchool fees, is no ſufficient encouragement for one properly qualified; and the great diſtances of the ſeveral habitations, and the want of fit houſes for boarding, render it impoſſible for a ſchool here to be of general benefit to the people. A few years ago, the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge gave a ſchoolmaſter to this pariſh with L. 10 of ſalary, yet all at once thought fit to remove him, becauſe there was no greater number of ſcholars than 17 attending the ſchool; yet, had they duly conſidered the ſituation and circumſtances of this place, they might have eaſily ſeen, that granting the means of inſtruction to 17 ſcholars in this remote quarter, was a greater charity by much than giving a ſchool to a populous inland pariſh, like Kiltearn in Roſs-ſhire, which could ſo eaſily maintain a ſchoolmaſter for itſelf, and yet that was the place to which they removed our ſchoolmaſter.

4. The want of communication with poſt towns, which is not only grievous to the inhabitants, but alſo a public diſadvantage and loſs. This is a place of general reſort for all kinds of ſhipping, on account of the many excellent harbours, where they ride in ſafety in all weathers. Here, therefore, before they face the North ſeas in their outward bound voyages, they are ready to put in, and deſirous of acquainting their employers and friends with their condition; and alſo, in their return from theſe ſeas, they are in the ſame way willing to give information to their concerns at home. Beſides, the fleet

of

of herring fishers, who often spend more of their time upon the coast of this parish than any where else, because here they find most employment, have always great occasion to write home concerning their affairs; and, as early information of the state of the fishing is of the greatest importance, that information might be given was there once a regular communication established with the nearest post town: the want of this, last season, was attended with immense loss; for while this fleet were losing their time doing little in the bays to the S. our creeks and harbours were full of the finest fish, and there was none to take them; for, as the inhabitants had no salt for curing, and could find no buyers, they desisted from killing them. ——The expence of a weekly courier from hence to Tain, which is only a distance of 40 miles, though too heavy for the inhabitants of this place, would be only a trifle to the public, and would be richly compensated by the benefit arising from it to the community. At present, a few of the parishioners are at the expence of a runner, once in the fortnight, from this place to Tongue, a distance of 22 miles and bad road, where there is a weekly communication with Thurso.

NUMBER XXXIV.

UNITED PARISHES OF WISTOUN AND ROBERTOUN.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. MR. JOSEPH HENDERSON.

Name and Extent.

THE pariſhes of Wiſtoun and Robertoun were united in 1772. Robertoun was probably ſo called from ſome eminent perſon of the name of Robert, or from ſome opulent family having conferred it as a portion upon a ſon of that name. —Wiſtoun, in old papers Woolſtoun, derives its appellation from wool; for about the middle of the village, which gives name to the pariſh, near the church, there is a green mount, called the Croſs, where in former times wool was ſold. Situated betwixt the low and the high lands, or betwixt the arable ground and the ſheep farms, it muſt have been a convenient place for a wool market; and ſo might naturally have obtained the name of Wools-town.

The united pariſhes extend about 5 miles along the weſt banks of the Clyde, whoſe courſe here is nearly from S. to N. It is almoſt equally extenſive in the oppoſite direction.

Heritors,

Heritors, Agriculture, Produce, &c.—The heritors are 6 in number, 2 of theſe have each a ſmall or moderate farm in the pariſh. One of them farms his own property, which is partly incloſed and ſubdivided. The preſent Lord Juſtice Clerk is the only conſiderable heritor. He has a ſeat in the pariſh, round which his Lordſhip has made great improvements in farming, planting, and incloſing. There are no incloſures or growing timber worth mentioning in the reſt of the pariſh.

The mode of farming which prevails here, is much the ſame as has obtained from time immemorial. Even about the village of Wiſtoun, the tenants of the croft lands have not their poſſeſſions ſeparately divided, but intermingled with one another in ſmall ſpots here and there, or *run-rig*. This, however, is not the caſe through the whole pariſh.——The ſoil, eſpecially about the villages, is good, and the land lets high. There is lime in the pariſh, but the road to the kilns is often ſcarcely paſſable. There are commons, moors, and moſſes, in the pariſh.

The chief produce is oats and barley, which are allowed to be very good, and much more than ſufficient for the inhabitants, though the ſituation is high, and the climate rather cold and damp, which often occaſions late harveſts. The crops here have been very defective ſince the year 1782; perhaps crops 1788 and 1791 may be conſidered as exceptions.—Thirlage, with very high multures, prevails here.—Beſides arable, there are a good many ſheep farms, particularly in the upper part of the pariſh. Several farms let for about L. 100 *per annum*. As in other parts of the country, ſo here too, the number of tenants has been much diminiſhed by the conjoining of farms.—Agricultural labours and improvements, which, together with tending cattle, are perhaps the moſt natural and ſalutary occupations of man, do not flouriſh here. Trade and

manufactures, though going on so briskly in the neighbourhood, have as yet made no progress in this parish *.

Population.—The return to Dr Webster in 1755, from Wistoun, was 591, and from Robertoun, 511;—in all, 1102 souls. In spring 1791, there were residing in the united parish 740 persons, 370 males, and 370 females. The number of families was 182, which at an average is about 4 persons to a family; 27 of these families consisted of single persons. There were 214 married persons; 54 widowers and widows; about 140 under 9 or 10 years of age; several persons about 80,—one 82,—one 83,—one 85,—and one 88, years old. Each of these parishes seems to have been as populous, or nearly so, 50 or 60 years ago, as the united parish now is. This opinion is grounded on the register of births and marriages, which about that period seems to have been pretty accurately kept, and on the accounts of old persons in the parish. The decrease is easily accounted for:—from one farmer now occupying what several had occupied formerly;—from arable land being converted into store or sheep farms;—from a greater number of cattle and horses being reared;—and from people of late years, particularly young persons, removing to places where there are manufactures and public works. Hence one cause of the great proportion of deaths, by a number of old people being left in the parish, while their children remove.—For 4 years preceding 1792, the yearly average of births in the united parish is 15; of marriages, 7; and of deaths, 16. In 1791, 11 were born, and 21 died: since the commencement of 1792, 4 have been born, and 11 have died. From so few years no certain calculation can be made: however, it evidently appears that

* The wages of servants and day-labourers have risen much of late, on account of the great demand for hands at the public works and manufactories.

that the number of inhabitants has been decreaſing rapidly of late, and continues to decreaſe.

Houſes, Diſeaſes, and Fuel.——The houſes here in general are bad. A good many people die of a kind of conſumptions, conjoined with, and terminating in, rheumatic pains and ſwellings; induced, perhaps, by living meanly in cold damp uncomfortable cottages. Inoculation is little practiſed here; but the natural ſmall pox has ſeldom proved fatal in the pariſh. The fuel is coal from the neighbouring pariſhes of Douglas and Carmichael. The price was much advanced ſome years ago.

Poor.—There is, ſtrictly ſpeaking, no poor's roll. Thoſe in need apply occaſionally, as deſired and encouraged, to the miniſter or elders, and receive ſupply, or any farmer or neighbour applies for them. The ſick are ſometimes aſſiſted; and ſome have the ſchool-fees of their children paid by the pariſh. Since 1780, the collections at the church doors, and the intereſt of a trifling ſum of public money, have anſwered the exigencies of the poor. Sometimes the effects of poor perſons, who have received much from the public funds, are added to theſe funds at their death. None ſtroll out of the pariſh to ſollicit charity; but vagrants from every quarter reſort thither. Generally ſpeaking, the poor in this place are reaſonable in their demands, and live contented on little: this holds not only with reſpect to thoſe who apply for aid from the public funds, but to many other houſeholders. It is ſometimes neceſſary to preſs aid on the neceſſitous, ſuch is their modeſty. Sometimes two widows, or ſingle women, join in one cottage, to ſave houſe-rent and fuel; and many, even ſuch as are advanced in life, ſupport themſelves by ſpinning flax, and work-

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ing in harvest, and at other times. The rent of a cottage is about 12s. a year.

Ecclesiastical State and Schools.—There are only a very few dissenters from the Established church in the parish.—The Crown was patron of Wistoun, the family of Douglas of Robertoun. When the parishes were united, it was settled that the right of patronage should be alternate, the Crown having the first turn.

The schools remain as before the parishes were united, there being one with the legal salary in each of the former parishes.

Miscellaneous Remarks.—The high and well known hill of Tinto stands on the borders of this parish.—Dun-gavel, a detached beautiful green hill, stands betwixt Wistoun and Robertoun. A water spout broke upon it, August 2d, 1768 *. —There are good trout in the Clyde, as also in two small rivers, the one running through Robertoun, the other by Wistoun.—The great road from Carlisle to Glasgow, by Moffat, passes thro' the head of this parish. There is a pretty good road across the parish, made sometime ago by statute-labour, to give access to coal. The other roads here are very bad.—The greater part of the people live in scattered villages, none of which are large. Robertoun contains above 30 families;—Wistoun about 30;—and New-town of Wistoun much the same: besides these there are several smaller villages, of about 8, 9, or 10 families each.

* This event is described in the Scots Magazine, for the month of Sep. 1768.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF LOTH.

(PRESBYTERY OF DORNOCH, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND AND CAITHNESS, COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE M'CULLOCH.

Extent, Rivers, Fisheries, &c.

THE parish of Loth lies on the N. side of the Murray Firth. The arable or inhabited part is bounded by the sea on the S. and S. E. and on the N. and N. W. by a ridge of high mountains running parallel to the shore. The length of the parish is 14 miles, and the breadth, where broadest, not above $\frac{3}{4}$, and in some places not $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile. The river of Helmsdal, in the Celtic *Avonuillie*, near the northern extremity of this district, issues from a number of lakes in the parish of Kildonnan; the most distant of which, for they are joined together, borders on Strathnaver, in the parish of Far. Its course, from the last lake to the sea, is from N. W. to S. E. for the length of about 20 miles. It is a pity there is no bridge at Helmsdale; as all travellers, to and from Caithness and Orkney, are obliged to cross the river, which they do either by a ford, or in a passage-boat; but in a speat, the one method is impracticable,

practicable, and the other very difficult. About a mile from the mouth of the river are cruives for intercepting the ſalmon; and the privilege of fiſhing here is rented from the Sutherland family by a company, for L. 133 ſterling *per annum*. This company has of late erected a boiling houſe at Helmſdale, where not only the ſalmon of that river, but likewiſe thoſe of Brora and Shin, are boiled for the London market. The river of Loth, near the other extremity of the pariſh, has no permanent ſource, and very little water in ſummer. It riſes in the neighbouring mountains; and has two branches which meet at a ſmall village called the Glen, about a mile above the place were it falls into the ſea. This Glen, or Glen-loth, is a ſmall farm, fitter for producing graſs than corn, and has for a long time paſt been the reſidence of one tenant; but of late, ſeveral families have begun to build and take up their reſidence to the N. of the old farm houſe, and to extend their cultivation towards Duchal. The number of inhabitants at preſent in this tract, which may be called the highlands of the pariſh, including men, women, and children, amounts to 68 or 70 ſouls. It is upon the ſpot where the hunting houſe, mentioned by the late Mr Alexander Pope, miniſter of Reay, in his account of Sutherland and Caithneſs, publiſhed in the Appendix to Pennant's Tour, ſtood, that one of theſe coloniſts has pitched his tent, by which that monument of antiquity is deſtroyed. The Pictiſh caſtle of which Mr Pope ſpeaks, is on the N. ſide of the river, about a furlong below the place where the two branches meet; a little below this building, is the cataract he mentions. It is impoſſible to conceive what could induce him to talk of fine fiſhing in the river Loth, for there is no ſuch thing, though, perhaps, a ſalmon might have been caught in it occaſionally, or by accident. One ſummer, the Helmſdale company employed a boat and crew for about 2 months in the mouth of the Loth: they caught ſeveral ſalmon;

but the ſucceſs was not ſuch as to tempt them to continue their operations. This river falls into the ſea, in a channel cut through a rock 20 feet high, by Lady Jane Gordon, Counteſs of Sutherland *. Before this channel was cut, the courſe of the Loth was eaſtward through the low grounds of Crakag and Lothmore. This river is very rapid, and ſometimes impaſſable in ſpeats; upon theſe occaſions it is more formidable to travellers than Helmſdale, becauſe on the latter there is a paſſage boat, whereas on the former there is no reſource but to encounter the ſtream. A Caithneſs poſt was drowned in attempting to croſs it in 1755, and an exciſe officer's ſervant periſhed in it in the ſame way ſoon afterwards. There are four rapid burns in the pariſh to the S. of Helmſdale, beſides the burn of the Ord to the N. of it; in the laſt a young man and his wife periſhed in a ſpeat, being carried down by the ſtream over a high precipice, about 20 years ago. The rivers and burns abound in trout. The road through the pariſh is dry, and would anſwer well for travellers on horſeback and on foot, if there were bridges over thoſe ſtreams; but it is not adapted for wheel carriages.

Soil, Manure, Produce.—Theſoil is generally good, and the arable part of it in conſtant culture, produing a crop every year, as far back as the memory of the oldeſt men or even their fathers. All the tackſmen and tenants have one half of their arable land in bear, and the other half in oats and peaſe. The bear land gets two furrows and is manured, but that for oats and peaſe gets only one furrow without manure; ſo that the land is manured every ſecond year. The ordinary manure, and what anſwers beſt for bear is ſea-ware, but it is believed to have little

* This uſeful work was executed by that lady, during her ſon's minority. She was likewiſe the firſt that began to dig for coal, at Brora in the neighbouring pariſh of Clyne.

tle effect on the second crop, so that in most places the oats turn to a poor account; they are also frequently infested with a kind of small vetch that over-runs the ground and destroys the crop. Some years the pease answer extremely well, but at other times they entirely fail. The same may be said of the beans, of which a few are sown instead of oats or pease in deep or very wet grounds. The great dependence of the farmers, therefore, is upon the bear, of which the parish yields near 3000 bolls yearly. When well dressed, each boll is seldom below 18 stone weight, and often a stone or two more. The soil in some places is said to be well adapted for lint, but hitherto the attempts to rear that useful plant have been few and feeble, and therefore not followed by any beneficial effects. There is very little pasture ground in the low parts of the parish, and therefore few cows are maintained in it in summer. A great quantity of potatoes are raised, hardly an inhabitant of the parish but has a plantation of that useful root, which is generally planted after a crop of bear, and prepares the ground for another crop of grain. The deer of the forest of Steitil are very troublesome to the people of the glen in summer and harvest, by eating their corn.

Rent, Stipend, &c.—The Countess of Sutherland has the whole property of the parish, but there are 6 wad-setters, of whom 2 reside. Several gentlemen of property have taken farms in the parish; these farms are provided with good houses and offices, and some are inclosed with stone dykes. Some tacksmen have the whole, and others a part, of their victual-rent converted at 10s. per boll. The valued rent is L. 2264 : 4 : 8 Scotch. The real rent is in victual 583 bolls, 1 firlot, 3 pecks, and 2 lippies, in money L. 288 : 12 : 1½ ster. and the fishing on the river of Helmsdale the third part of L. 400, or L. 133 : 6 : 8 ster. all which, converting the victual at 10s. per boll, amount

to

to L. 713 : 13 : 5¼ ſter. The ſtipend, including L. 50 Scotch for communion elements, is L. 26 : 7 : 9⅓ ſter. and 5 chalders of bear. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is only 100 merks Scotch, and there was no proper ſchool houſe till laſt year, on which account the pariſh frequently wanted a ſchoolmaſter. At preſent there is a decent ſchool-houſe, and betwixt 30 and 40 ſcholars attend it. The regiſters of baptiſms and marriages have hitherto been ill kept, and frequently neglected. The number of baptiſms, at an average, amount to about 40, of marriages 24, and of burials 16. There is no fund for the poor but the weekly collections, which are very ſmall, little is given in ſilver, and the copper is frequently bad. The tenants give their alms in meal at their houſes or at the mills, and the gentry are frequently their own almoners. There are 5 millers, 3 ſmiths, and 7 or 8 wrights; but ſome of them have land, and hardly any have conſtant employment in their different departments. There are alſo taylors, ſhoemakers, and weavers; but theſe, for the moſt part, are likewiſe labourers and cottars. There are 2 or 3 pedlars that import from Aberdeen or Glaſgow ſuch things as the common people have occaſion for; but hardly one of them depends entirely on that commerce for his living*.

 Fiſheries,

* All the tenants, cottars, and fiſhers, pay bodily ſervice, or what is called carriages, to the landlord or tackſmen. The incumbent having applied to a pariſhoner in whoſe knowledge and integrity he had great confidence, for information on this ſubject, received this anſwer: "Your inquiries as to ſervices "or carriages performed by the ſubtenants and cottars on my farm, in conſe-"quence of Sir John Sinclair's Statiſtical queries, having ſuggeſted the follow-"ing thoughts on that ſubject, you are at liberty to uſe them as you pleaſe. "Whatever the nature and extent, uſe or abuſe of ſervices were formerly, I "believe they are now generally a kind of commutation-rent, which the "poſſeſſors of narrow and detached ſpots of arable or graſs ground, on the out-ſkirts

Fisheries, Fuel and Minerals.—Some years ago, there were several fishing boats and crews of fishers in the parish, but now there

" out-skirts of a property or farm, pay by mutual agreement to the pro-
" prietor or tacksman in lieu of money or victual rent, or in part of the
" rent. The services performed by such as pay no other rent are always
" personal, and commonly not limited to a certain number of days, though
" restricted to certain seasons of the year, and to particular kinds of work,
" viz. shearing in harvest; carrying the corn from the stacks to the barns in
" the winter; delving or turning with a spade such corners or angles of a
" field as the plough cannot reach, in spring; planting potatoes, cutting or
" spreading peats, and weeding in the fields and gardens, in summer. As
" these services, however, and the culture of their own small possessions,
" take up but little of their time, and as the produce of such possessions,
" commonly does not serve to maintain the possessors, they subsist chiefly,
" the men, by being employed as day-labourers by their master or the
" neighbouring farmers; the women, by spinning lint or wool for private
" families, or such as are concerned in manufactures.

" But the services of such as pay either money or victual-rent are com-
" monly limited to a certain number of days; and the work which they
" with their cattle are bound to perform, is specified, such as ploughing or
" carrying manure, cutting and carrying home a limited quantity of peats,
" and shearing or stacking corn and hay. When these services are perform-
" ed faithfully and cheerfully, and when the master, whether proprietor or
" tacksman, demands no more than an equivalent for what rent the ground
" so possessed is worth, both parties are benefited by the bargain; as the
" master could not always get his work so quickly or so cheaply done by any
" other hands, and as it is easier for most of our small tenants and cottars
" to pay the whole or part of their rent by their personal labour, or that
" of their cattle, than to pay the full value of their possessions in money or
" victual. I know that this opinion of mutual advantage from services has
" been controverted, and the practice in general condemned as oppressive
" by our southern neighbours; nor will I deny, that where such manufactures
" are established as are fit to employ persons of both sexes and all ages;
" and that, in the neighbourhood of towns or populous manufacturing vil-
" lages, where a farmer could get any number of labourers wanted for a par-
" ticular purpose for a few days, the small tenants and cottars might find
" it more for their interest to pay a proportional rent without any services;
" and the proprietor or tacksman might bring his outfields to a better
" account,

there is only one crew, and the remains of another; and though they go ſometimes to ſea with ſmall lines, their ſubſiſtence does not depend on their ſucceſs in fiſhing; there are ſeveral other ſmall boats, in which the tenants and cottars fiſh occaſionally with hand-lines, near the ſhore, when the weather and their other buſineſs permits them to be ſo employed. For the two years paſt, the inhabitants derived little advantage in the way of fiſhing from their vicinity to the ſea, as they had not their uſual ſucceſs; but appearances begin now to be more favourable. — It is an ordinary cuſtom with the fiſhers on the ſouth ſide of the Firth, and on the Firths of Inverneſs and Cromarty to repair to the coaſt of the pariſh of Loth to fiſh in the ſpring and ſummer ſeaſons, whence they generally carry home their boats fully loaded. The coaſt is in ſome places rocky, in others, a ſandy beach. There are ſeveral boat-harbours on the ſhore, but that of Culgour is accounted the beſt. Connoiſſeurs ſay, that a pier for ſhips could be erected at

" account, than by letting them for occaſional ſervices. But where there " are neither populous towns nor villages in a neighbourhood, nor manufac- " tures of any kind introduced, except perhaps a little ſpinning of lint, and " where the country is at the ſame time populous in proportion to the de- " mand for labouring and to the means of ſubſiſtence, I ſee no other alter- " native in the power of ſmall proprietors or tacksmen, than either to al- " low theſe poor people to continue in their poſſeſſions as formerly on equi- " table terms, or by removing them from, and depriving them of, preſent " means of ſubſiſtence, to force them to emigration or beggary. Which of " theſe alternatives is moſt conſiſtent with the feelings of humanity, or moſt " likely to be conducive to the public intereſt, is not difficult to determine. " It is devoutly to be wiſhed that manufacturing villages were eſtabliſhed in " every corner of our country, ſo that the lower claſs of people might have " it in their power either to continue as they are, or to earn their livelihood " entirely as day labourers, or by carrying on ſome uſeful branch of manu- " facture." After all, a few only are ſo indulgent to the poor as my correſpondent, yet they ſeem to enjoy life under thoſe that treat them with ſeverity.

at a very moderate expence in that bay. In the ſummer time, the people fiſh ſand eels in the ſand, and lobſters and crabs amongſt the rocks in the ebb. Fuel is an expenſive article on account of the diſtance of the peats, and the badneſs of the road; ſo that all the peats are carried home in back loads on horſes. Some of the gentlemen have of late begun to import coal, which though dear, they have found to be very convenient. There are quarries of lime ſtone and free ſtone on the ſhore; as alſo ſome detached blocks of a very hard and beautiful kind of granite, which Jones, who travelled the country lately in queſt of natural curioſities, ſays, is ſuſceptible of a fine poliſh, and the beſt he ever ſaw except the Italian. There are ſome rocks of parrot-coal in the ſea under Crakag, which are acceſſible at ebb. The bell-ware on the ſhore is cut every third year, and made into kelp.

Population, Horſes, Cattle, and Sheep.—As there are no manufactures or fiſheries eſtabliſhed in the pariſh, or any improvements in agriculture introduced, the number of inhabitants has not increaſed or diminiſhed much ſince the commencement of the preſent century. There is a yearly emigration of young people of both ſexes to the ſouth of Scotland; few of whom return. No account has been kept of theſe emigrants, and therefore their number cannot be exactly aſcertained. It appears by a decreet of locality in 1722, that the number of catechizable perſons at that time was 1000. The return to Dr Webſter in 1755 was 1193 ſouls. And in ſpring 1791, the number of the whole inhabitants amounted to 1370.——They purchaſe yearly ſeveral horſes at the Dornoch markets, as the manuring the ground with ſea-ware, which, as well as peats, they carry on horſe back-loads, occaſions a great conſumption of that ſpecies, of which there are about 500 in conſtant work, and very few of them are

reared

reared in the parish itself. Besides these, the gentlemen keep riding-horses, which are occasionally used in the harrow; some of the tacksmen have likewise begun to use carts and wains for carrying manure, but that method of labouring has hitherto made very little progress. There is a good deal of the land ploughed with horses, but still more with oxen, of which there are about 300 kept for that purpose alone. The number of milch cows is above 200, and that of sheep, betwixt 1500 and 2000. There are likewise a good many swine reared; they are all consumed in the parish.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The climate seems to be upon the whole healthy. The people in general live to a good old age, though they are not instancesof remarkable longevity here. The most common diseases, especially amongst those of advanced life, are coughs, asthmas, and the rheumatism. As to the moral and religious character of the common people, they are generally sober, serious, and industrious, attentive to their business and credit, humane in their deportment, respectful to their superiors, and ready to shew kindness to strangers. No doubt there are exceptions, especially amongst the lowest class; of whom there are many addicted to pilfering, when they expect to escape detection, or to come off with impunity. The better sort have an high veneration for the forms of religion, and are very strict in the exercises of devotion in their families, and in attendance on public worship, of which there is no form but that of the established church in the parish. This uniformity of opinion as to doctrine and worship is not confined to this parish, but extends over all the country; which is an uncommon appearance in a free nation, and amongst protestants, not owing to any thing peculiar in the inhabitants of Sutherland, but entirely, to their local situation, and external circumstances. However though there be no open schism to divide

vide them in public worship, they have their lay-leaders, some of the boldest and most conceited speakers at fellowship meetings, whom they implicitly believe, merely on account of their high pretensions and affected sanctity, by which they impose upon the people, and frequently mislead them. Of late they have begun to keep fellowship meetings amongst themselves, without the presence of a minister. To these meetings they covene at certain fixed periods from different parishes, propose questions in divinity, explain scriptures, and give a sanction to any doctrines or opinions that are considered as orthodox by the presiding saint.——The evil consequences of these meetings on the heads and hearts of the people are begun to be too clearly seen by the clergy; but they have not been able as yet to devise a method of suppressing them; if they are allowed to proceed, it is not easy to say, in what they will terminate at last*.

There

* The remains of several Pictish buildings are to be seen; one on the shore below the church, which with its out-works, covered a great extent of ground, is almost effaced, as most of the stones used in building the manse and church were dug out of its ruins, as were likewise very lately the stones of a farm house. In digging these last several deer-horns and human bones were found.

A green mote stood on the banks of the river of Loth, which the gentleman that now possesses Lothbeg ordered to be dug up. There appeared a subterraneous dwelling, surrounded on the outside with large flat stones, which seem to have made a part of the wall; the rubbish was cleared away, and the stones left in the same situation in which they were in the old fabrick.

In an adjacent field, the same gentleman having ordered the ground to be cleared of some cairns, in order to inclose it, there were two stone-coffins found, and in them several urns of clay-ware, which the workmen broke with their spades before they discovered them. On the shore, in several places where there was a beautiful surface of grass about 36 years ago, breaches have been made by sand-blowing, that have discovered about ten or twelve feet below that surface, of which some detached spots remain, an area of sand

There have been only three Presbyterian ministers in the parish, prior to the present incumbent. The first was Mr. Robert Robertson, who was settled in 1717 or 1718, and transported to Eddertoun in Ross-shire in 1730. It was during the ministry of this gentleman, and from this parish, that the last unhappy woman that suffered for witchcraft in Scotland was executed. She was burnt at Dornoch; and the common people entertain strong prejudices against her relations to this day.

sand, on which are cairns of stones close by one another, which appear evidently to have been heaped up to cover dead bodies, some of whose bones are still to be seen. A number of these tumuli lie on the shore of Wester Garty, which is said to have been the field of a bloody battle, betwixt the Sutherland and Caithness men; the particulars of this engagement, under the name of *Stronrunkie*, used to be a frequent and familiar subject of conversation in the young days of the oldest men in the parish; but they themselves remember nothing but the tradition of the battle. On this spot are the remains of an edifice resembling the other Pictish buildings in the parish; in which was found some years ago, the entire skeleton of a man, who, by the size and length of the bones, must have far exceeded in bulk the common standard of the present days. There is a pretty extensive plain in the moor above Garty, to the west of Helmsdale, which is said to have been the field of another battle, fought at an earlier period than that of *Stronrunkie*. A number of tumuli are still to be seen in this place which is called *Lonribomass*. In a valley, betwixt two high hills, is a large stone fixed in the ground, and standing pretty erect, evidently raised by art, as it is of a cylindrical form, and more than ten feet high above the level of the ground; it has no discernible inscription, or carving of any sort; neither is there any tradition as to the cause for which it was erected. Near it are other two stones of a smaller size erected in the same manner.

NUMBER XXXVI.

UNITED PARISHES OF SWINTON AND SIMPRIN.

(PRESBYTERY OF CHIRNSIDE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE, COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

By the Rev. Mr. George Cupples.

Extent, Name, &c.

THIS diſtrict extends 4 Engliſh miles from E. to W. and about 3 or $3\frac{1}{4}$ from N. to S. Swinton and Simprin became one pariſh by annexation, and by the tranſlation to Coldſtream of Mr Jolly, then miniſter of the latter, on the 24th September 1761. This tract is very irregularly indented; Swinton, the principal village where the church and manſe ſtand, is too near the E. end, and the N. ſide, to be quite in the centre of the pariſh; but in ſo ſmall a diſtrict no real inconvenience is felt from this circumſtance. As to the origin of Simprin or Simpron, it is uncertain what it means. There is hardly any doubt but Swinton was derived from ſwine, with which the adjacent plains abounded, and by which they were infeſted of old. Heroes, it is ſuppoſed, firſt became ſuch by clearing the earth from ſavage animals, and thereby aſſert-

ing

ing man's ſupremacy in the globe; ſuch a hero became the founder of Swinton family, by reſcuing theſe fields from deſtructive animals, and enabling his diſmayed countrymen to eat inſtead of being eaten by them; he had theſe fields aſſigned him, and has tranſmitted them to a very long ſeries of deſcendants. This fact does not reſt merely in tradition, for it is certain that ſwine make a great figure in the arms of the family; that there are ſeveral perſons who ſtill retain the name of ſwine without the additional ſyllable; and that the animal itſelf, no longer an object either of terror or of ſuperſtition, is now become a favourite ſource both of commerce and food to the inhabitants.—The appearance of the pariſh is in general neither uniformly flat, nor is it mountainous or rocky; it exhibits a ſet of gentle elevations in long ridges, generally from E. to W. with alternate flats betwixt them. The ſoil for the moſt part is fertile, and to a very high degree productive of graſs, natural or artificial, and grain of all ſorts; except ſome of the flats, a few of which are too marſhy for corn, and even rather unmanageable as to graſs, if the ſeaſon be not uncommonly dry. The ſoil in general is deep; below what has been already mellowed by frequent tillage, by manure, and change of crops, a ſtrong tenacious clay prevails to a very great depth. Of courſe, the roads are deep, miry, and often almoſt impaſſable in winter; when new made, they ſeldom continue good for any time; gravel is diſtant and often ſcarce; and the clay ſoon ſwallows up ſuch hard materials as are employed. It appears that the art of road-making ſtill wants much of that perfection which it formerly had, and may perhaps attain. The ſame ſoil, which is miry and dirty in winter, is devoid of moiſture and parched in dry ſummers, expoſing the inhabitants at one time to all the inconveniencies of exceſſive moiſture, and at other times to all the hardſhips of exceſſive drought. Cattle have been driven from the N. ſide of the pariſh to Blackadder, and

from the S. ſide to Tweed, for water; but the ingenuity of the times has now in a great meaſure ſupplied this defect, by deep ponds or very deep wells; and this diſtrict is now very rarely, though ſometimes, diſtreſſed by want of water. In ſpite of theſe and other inconveniences, plants, animals, and men multiply and thrive exceedingly. From ſome undrained marſhy grounds, from ſome low lying ſpots which long retain the waters in a ſtagnated ſtate, the air is often moiſt, foggy, and ſeemingly unwholeſome, though not ſo much ſo as one would conclude, the inhabitants living as long, and enjoying as much health as in other places; except that there is one diſeaſe very prevalent, namely the ague, the cauſes of which ſeem to be the miry nature of the ground, the fogginess of the air, the miſerable huts the common people till of late lived in, a defect in cleanlineſs, and the ſcanty portion of animal food which falls to their ſhare. The virulence of this diſeaſe, however, ſeems to be a good deal abated, owing to the univerſal incloſing of the grounds, draining off the moiſture, a very conſpicuous improvement in the houſes, perſonal cleanlineſs, and a great alteration for the better in diet. But this diſeaſe ſome years returns with ſuch unexpected frequency and force, as often baffles all ſpeculations concerning it.

The only ſtream of any note in the pariſh is Leet, which abounds with pike *.

Minerals, &c.—There is great plenty of free ſtone, particularly one excellent ſtone quarry is wrought in the farm of Swinton quarter, on which the family of Swinton retained a ſervitude

* A regular foſs can be ſtill traced in the church yard round the church, which was a ſtrong ſtone building, into which it would ſeem the pariſhioners upon a ſudden alarm retired till their countrymen, rouſed by a certain ſignal, came to their aſſiſtance. Then they ſallied forth, and aided by their neighbours drove off the ſouthern invaders.

tude when they ſold the land. It is much uſed in building; and the ſtone is ſo much in requeſt as to be ſent for from conſiderable diſtances. As moſt human advantages or diſadvantages ariſe from ſome ſlight local circumſtances, it is probable that to this quarry the pariſh owes a ſet of ingenious operative maſons, highly regarded in their line, cadets perhaps from the Swinton family, and prior to the additional ſyllable which has long ago both lengthened and ſoftened the name. Except ordinary whin-ſtone and freeſtone, no other minerals are to be found here. All the coals come from Northumberland, at 8 miles diſtance at leaſt from Swinton.

Population Table.

Population in 1755 in		Weavers	8
Swinton	351	Handycraftsmen	28
——— in Simprin	143	Journeymen & apprentices	21
Total	494	Houſehold ſervants, male and female	45
Number of ſouls in 1791	898	Labouring men ſervants	30
Males	481	Tradeſmen	35
Females	417	Shopkeepers	4
In Swinton village	357	Farmers	2
In Simprin do.	73	Surgeon	1
Under 10	258	Dancing maſter	1
From 10 to 20	152	Fiddler	1
From 20 to 50	341	Heritor, reſident	1
From 50 to 70	120	——— non-reſident	2
From 70 to 87	27	Burgher, Antiburgher, and Relief Seceders	90
Births in 1790	25	Cameronians	2
Males	17	Proportion of marriages to the whole populati-tion	1 to 64
Females	8		
Deaths in 1790	22		
Conſiderable farms	14		
Farmers and their families	123		

Proportion

Proportion of births, do.		Valued rent, Scotch	L. 4750
- - -	1 to 32	Real rent, sterling	L. 4030
——-—— of deaths do.		English acres - -	5120
- - -	1 to 42	Average rent per acre	16s.
Inhabited houses -	180	Horses - - -	168
Average number of persons in each house -	5	Black-cattle - -	778
		Sheep - - -	1517

The present incumbent had occasion some dozen of years ago to take an accurate list of the inhabitants upon a rumour of a Scottish militia, and finds they are now more numerous by 98. The increase is to be ascribed entirely to Lord Swinton's judicious attention to improve and enlarge his village of Swinton, partly by perpetual feus, and partly by leases of 999 years, which last mode gave great offence, and made some of the tenants ask what was to become of their houseless posterity at the end of that period. The real increase lies upon this village, as the other parts of the parish rather must decrease, for these reasons; universal inclosing has in a great measure superseded hands; two horse-ploughs, where the same man holds and drives, have made fewer boys necessary; and farms becoming larger, and grazing prevailing more, fewer hands are required to cultivate them. Swinton has increased rapidly. About 30 years ago there were not 100 persons in it; whereas it now contains 351 souls; and it is inconceivable how many of the necessaries of house-keeping, and how many conveniencies can be now found here, which 25 years ago the inhabitants had to send many miles for *.

Nothing

* It is almost impossible that any person in this place should die for want of the necessaries of life. Against so dreadful a disaster the securities are a fertile soil, a very regular poor's rate, a humane people, both gentry and others being ready to contribute liberally where any extraordinary case claims their attention;

Nothing that can be called emigration has happened here for many years; ſome boys, girls, men and women are at the hiring markets in the neighbourhood, engaged to ſerve out of, or in the pariſh. In this way many in form of hynds, cotters, cot-men, &c. flit in hopes of better uſage, often from whim or caprice; and every Whitſunday exhibits them removing or returning with their whole furniture and apparatus in a cart or two. But ſuch changes imply no ſettled diſcontent, ariſing often merely from levity and a love of change, either in them or their maſters. No doubt ſeveral have accepted tempting offers of employment in other pariſhes or in other counties, but they are generally ſuch as the farmers would have been fondeſt of employing at home.

There are no uninhabited houſes. The number of houſes is 180, and the average number of perſons to a houſe is almoſt exactly 5.

Natural Productions, Advantages and Diſadvantages.—This pariſh produces in great abundance all the vegetables and and plants known in the ſouth of Scotland, along with ſuch trees as are encouraged and taken care of; and does a great deal more than ſupply itſelf with all ſorts of grain; exporting a conſiderable quantity of corn by means of the merchants at Berwick and Eymouth.—The ſeaſons of ſowing and reaping vary greatly, yet the eligible time of ſowing wheat is from the 20th of September to the 20th of October, ſpring wheat is ſown any time in March.—The beſt ſeaſon for field peaſe or beans is from the laſt week of February to the laſt week of March.

tention, along with a diſcretionary power in the miniſter for ſudden emergencies; ſo that the charity of the pariſhioners is in little hazard of being either abuſed or withheld. In 1782, a trifling attention, firſt to the penſioned poor, and ſecondly to ſuch as were in temporary ſtraits, removed all complaints within his pariſh. Some perſons ſuſpected to be in want modeſtly declined the proffered aid, and others reſented the offer as an inſult.

March. Cold ſeed oats are ſown as early in March as the ground and weather will admit; but hot ſeed oats may be ſown three weeks later; barley from the middle of April till the 8th or 10th day of May. The harveſt is reckoned early, when it begins before the 20th of Auguſt.—The advantages which this pariſh enjoys are a very fertile and productive ſoil;—the neighbourhood of the Tweed, and furniſhing, by its carters, ſuch as lie to the north and weſt with coals and lime, by their hired carts and horſes; a centrical ſituation with regard to the market towns of Berwick, Kelſo, Dunſe and Coldſtream.—The diſadvantages are, a ticklish ſoil, eaſily hurt either by drought or rain, tho' no ſpot is more fertile when the ſeaſon exactly ſuits it; moſt impracticable roads, which no ſkill nor attention hitherto has made effectually good; the having no fuel but coals from Northumberland brought acroſs the Tweed at a ford precarious, and often fatal by the raſhneſs of the men and the ſudden riſe of the river: every ſeaſon ſome horſes are loſt in it; no peat, no fuel, no timber, except the ſcanty and uncertain ſupply of thorn-hedges cut and ſold; and the total want of manufactures.

Rent, Changes of Property, Agriculture.——The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4750 Scots: The real rent is about L. 4030 ſterling; the number of Engliſh acres (excluſive of 14 acres of glebes) is 5120 or thereabouts, which is nearly 16s. an acre at an average; the higheſt rent yet known is 25s. per acre for a few acres, the farm of Swinton quarter gives 23s. per acre, and the loweſt rent here is 8s. There is all the certainty ſuch ſubjects admit of that this rent, inſtead of ſinking, will riſe conſiderably.

It has already been mentioned, that the founder of the Swinton family got the lands of Swinton as a reward for his valour in clearing the earth of thoſe deſtructive animals, wild boars.

The family afterwards became ſtill more conſpicuous, by aſſiſting Malcolm Canmore to recover the throne of his anceſtors; and that ſovereign confirmed to them the property of the whole pariſh of Swinton, by one of the firſt charters granted in Scotland, ſtill preſerved in the archives of Durham. During the commonwealth, the then repreſentative of the Swinton family having eſpouſed the cauſe of Cromwell, the eſtate was forfeited at the reſtoration of Charles II. but it was given back at the Revolution. However, a long exile, while their revenues were ſequeſtrated, had ſo involved the family that it became neceſſary to ſell the three farms of Mont Suir, to the Kerrs of Morriſton, who ſtill poſſeſs them. And ſome years afterwards, the father of the preſent Lord Swinton ſold three farms for L. 5500 to Provoſt Coutts, whoſe heirs ſold them about 1754 for L. 6500 to William Hall of Whitehall, who, after many meliorations at a great expence, ſold them to Patrick Lord Elibank for more than double of his purchaſe money. However, after all theſe alienations, the Swinton eſtate is ſtill a noble and extenſive property. The whole pariſh of Simprin was long the property of the antient family of Cockburn of Langton, but their affairs falling into diſorder, the eſtate was ſequeſtrated, and purchaſed, about 1758, by Patrick Lord Elibank, for L. 18,000.—The moſt conſpicuous object in Simprin is the very high and ſpacious barn built by the Cockburns, conſiſting of a threſhing floor and large and lofty granaries. Lord Elibank thinking its height expoſed it to ſtorms, lowered the roof conſiderably, but left the gabels ſtanding, ſo that they ſtill ſhew the original altitude of the building, which is ſeen from almoſt every part of Berwickſhire. Theſe are, excluſive of the graſs parks of Swinton and other paſture grounds extending to 720 acres, about fourteen farms in the pariſh; and each farmer occupies 320 acres at an average. One farm of 414 acres is let at 23s. another of 400 acres at 14s. a third of 477 acres

at 15s. a fourth of 370 acres at 18s. and a fifth of about 300 acres at 12s. per acre.—The farmers are allowed by their leaſes to plough half of their farms annually, the other half being occupied by paſture or ſown graſs. The former is uſually divided into five portions, one in fallow, one in wheat, one in peaſe or ſome other green crop, one in barley, and one in oats. Were this practice ſtrictly followed, a tenth part of each farm would be in wheat; but as in ſome farms and in ſome ſeaſons this will not do, it will be nearer the truth to compute a twelfth of each farm, according to which eſtimation there will be annually 366 acres ſown with wheat in the pariſh. About 228 bolls will be required to ſow them, and the produce, reckoning 8 bolls after one, will be 1824 bolls of wheat; which at 30s. per boll will give L. 2736. From the above data it will be eaſy to compute the quantity and value of the other productions of the pariſh. The farmers are prevented from ſowing turnips to any extent by the impracticability of pulverizing their ſtrong ground to the fineneſs this ſeed requires, and the difficulty of getting the roots off without leaving dangerous impreſſions upon the ſoil. To remove them by horſes or carts is very hurtful; and when ſheep are folded on them, the holes made by their feet render the ground unfavourable for bearing the ſucceeding crop of barley. The farmers therefore prefer taking fields of turnips in the neighbouring pariſhes, at from L. 2 : 10s. to L. 5. per acre. It was formerly cuſtomary to ſow graſs ſeeds among barley after the ground had carried ſeveral crops ſince it was fallowed and limed; but the farmers now begin to ſow graſs ſeeds among the young wheat in ſpring, and this method is thought to ſucceed much better than the former.

Betwixt the two longitudinal elevations or ridges of Swinton quarter and Greenrig lies a flat low piece of ground of a very conſiderable breadth, often overflowed by the ſwellings of the Leet, which great pains have been taken to drain, and which

is

is moſt productive of graſs, and even ſometimes of corn in a very dry ſummer. If the large and expenſive canal, made by William Hall, Eſq; to ſecure a ſpacious bed for the Leet while paſſing through his grounds, were continued weſtward through Lord Swinton's lands to Swinton mill, it would contribute much to the fertility of the ſoil and the health of the inhabitants *.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The Crown is patron of this united pariſh. The ſtipend conſiſts of 100 bolls of oats, Linlithgow meaſure, 106 bolls of barley; L. 12 : 12 : 8 vicarage teinds, all which, excluſive of houſe and garden, and including the 2 glebes, along with ſervitudes of 2 horſes and 2 cows, may amount to L. 136 ſterling, *per annum* †.

The manſe was built in 1771. At the annexation it was on good grounds believed, that the old church of Swinton would hold all the inhabitants of both pariſhes; but the village of Swinton increaſing very rapidly, the new comers felt themſelves crowded, and therefore applied for an enlargement of the church. They aſked the conſent of the heritors to build an aile for themſelves, the ſeats to deſcend with their houſes and

* The family of Swinton by their extreme antiquity conſtitutes the greateſt curioſity of the pariſh. Sir Iſaac Newton in his Chronology calculates, that in no ſeries of Kings the average duration of each of their reigns exceeds 21 years; now it would appear that 22 barons, including the preſent proprietor, have occupied the lands of Swinton during the long period of 731 years, which ſuppoſes that in a moſt turbulent ariſtocracy, amidſt feudal broils and foreign wars, a ſeries of border chieftains enjoyed their eſtates at an average each more than 33 years.

† 56 bolls of the victual ſtipend are paid out of Paxton in the pariſh of Hutton; a chalder of barley is paid out of the lands of Eymouth; and L. 26 : 5s of vicarage out of the lands of Horndean in the pariſh of Lady-kirk. Theſe irregularities probably aroſe from the dependance of this pariſh on the abbacy of Coldingham; the abbot drawing the beſt victual out of this diſtrict, and paying his dependent clergy from places where the grain was worſe in quality.

gardens to their heirs, and to be inſeparable from their poſſeſſions.——This the heritors moſt readily granted, and 28 of theſe zealous heads of families, at their own expence, and in a great meaſure by their own hands, did in 1782, add a very handſome aile to the north ſide of the church, which was built in 1729. The old fabric was taken down on account of an apprehenſion that it was in a ruinous and dangerous ſtate; whereas on ſetting about pulling it down it appeared to be uncommonly ſtrong, and might have ſtood for ages. In the middle of the church below ground is a vault very neatly built of hewn ſtone, extending a conſiderable length, long the burying place of the family of Swinton; but being generally full of water, it is now no longer uſed for that purpoſe *.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.——Many changes have indeed happened in the village and in the pariſh ſince the year 1754. At that time Swinton conſiſted of a few miſerable huts not containing 100 perſons, and Simprin contained the whole inhabitants of that pariſh. By a diviſion into three farms, the pariſh has increaſed in numbers, though the village of Simprin has declined a little; but Swinton now conſiſts of one ſpacious ſquare,

* A ſtone figure of Allan Swinton, the 5th Baron of that family lies in an arched open niche on the ſouth wall on the right hand of the pulpit, with this inſcription, *Hic jacet Alanus Swintonus miles de eodem.* In his folded hands, which reſt upon his breaſt, he graſps a round awkward ſtone, and above him are very ill ſhaped figures of pigs and of a brood ſow. No date can be diſcovered; but it is well known that he died about the year 1200. The ſtone he graſps in his hand is by immemorial tradition ſaid to allude to a large clew of yarn, by the dexterous uſe of which in one hand, while he uſed his ſword with the other, he diſpatched a great wild boar in that field in Swintonhill which, from that event, ſtill retains the name of Allan's Cairn; ſo it would appear that this gentleman engaged in the ſame manly ſports, the ſame dangerous exerciſes, and was emulous of the original fame of his family, long before his time become great and conſpicuous.

ſquare, with a green in the middle, where two fairs are held, one in June, and the other in October.—At one corner is a large well-built public houſe. A ſtreet iſſues from the ſquare eaſt towards the kirk, hard by which ſtands the manſe, raiſed by its ſituation conſiderably above the level of 3 public roads, which meet below it. Every houſe almoſt without exception has its clock, and not a few of the owners have watches beſides; a conſiderable quantity of loaf bread is brought from Edinburgh, but eſpecially from Berwick, Dunſe, Coldſtream, and Norham. No regular butcher market is held here; but many black cattle, ſwine, and ſheep are killed occaſionally, and ſold to the villagers from the adjacent farms, eſpecially in the week of the ſacrament, the two weeks of the fairs, and about Martinmaſs. The price of poultry begins to riſe by the new inſtitution of an Edinburgh carrier, though ſtill it is not unreaſonable *.

About 1754, three farms in this pariſh were occupied by Northumbrian ſtewards of Northumbrian farmers; on the other farms lived a ſet of plain unpoliſhed farmers, ſcarcely diſtinguiſhable from their hynds, either in dreſs, information, or mode of living. Now a moſt comfortable change for the better has taken place. Of the preſent farmers ſome no doubt ſtill exhibit that ſort formerly known by the appellation of *gude men*, the toiling and ſtruggling cultivators of ſmall farms; but a ſecond ſort occupy large territories, early and intimately acquainted with the theory, the practice, and the commerce of

* Hens ſell from 7d. halfpenny to 9d. a duck at 9d. a gooſe at 1s. 8d. and 2s. a turkey from 3s. to 4s. The incumbent's two ſervant maids coſt him 3 guineas; his man ſervant L. 6 : 13s. and his boy 1 guinea *per annum*; and theſe are nearly an average of the farmers prices; it being underſtood that wages are always for many reaſons much higher in ſummer than in winter. The average price of grain for ſome years might be ſtated at 10s. 6d. for a boll of oats, 13s. for barley, 18s. for peas, and 30s. for wheat; all Linlithgow meaſure or ſix Wincheſter buſhels.

of farming, ſhrewd and ſenſible, in eaſy, and ſome in affluent circumſtances, independent either of lairds or factors; they live in a neat, handſome, and hoſpitable manner, and give their children a very extenſive education.—Some of them have had a liberal education. They employ in farming the conſiderable funds acquired by their fathers in the ſame line of life; ſtill retaining however their laudable literary curioſity and taſte for the belles lettres. So that while this diſtrict yeilds to many of the neighbouring pariſhes in the ſize, neatneſs, and conveniencies of farm houſes, in the eaſy circumſtances and even opulence, in the intellectual attainments, the ſocial, and hoſpitable manners of the farmers, it has no occaſion to envy any pariſh whatever. Even the hynds and cotters derive ſome improvement from living near ſuch ſuperiors; for beholding in them the advantages of neatneſs, of cleanlineſs, and knowledge, they ſtrive as much as their circumſcribed ſphere will admit to imitate them, giving their children as much reading, writing, and figures, as they can ſpare time for, along with a little dancing. Theſe hynds and cotters ſeem to live ſnug, happy, and contented, except when ſickneſs or want of œconomy diſtreſs them.

The poor are maintained by a poor's rate laid on by the heritors, as truſtees for the poor, along with the miniſter of the pariſh, on whom no ſmall ſhare of the trouble falls. During the life of the late Lord Elibank, merely to gratify a whim of his Lordſhip, the poor's rates of the two pariſhes were kept ſeparate; but they have been ſince thrown together, after an ineffectual oppoſition from the Simprin tenants, who apprehended that the growing ſize of Swinton would aggravate their expences on this ſcore.—Theſe rates have always been the chief ſupport of the poor, the collections at the church doors being very ſcanty indeed. The number of poor at preſent, is 12; the ſum raiſed for their ſupport is L. 32 : 14s. which di-

vided among the 12, gives L. 2 : 14s. 6d. each, which may aid, but cannot ſuperſede their induſtry, or the kind offices of their immediate friends.——The people of this pariſh are humane, clever, and ingenious, and ſeem to have the advantage of the Northumbrians on one ſide of them, and of the Eaſt Lothianers on the other. The incumbent, after a very long reſidence among them, cannot find any truth in the obſervation of an ingenious, learned, and witty Lord, who ſaid that the natives of the Merſe were engendered in mud, brought up in mud, and that their ideas were all muddy.

Incloſing they have been long reconciled to, and it has for ſome time been univerſal; the commutation of the ſtatute labour into money they ſubmit to with a tolerable grace.——Turnpikes and toll-bars, with which they are now threatened, they moſt heartily abhor. *

NUMBER

* Moſt of the labourers in huſbandry are hired by the half year; the day labourers are often a ſet of neat, clean, young girls, who feed in their parents houſes, and employ themſelves in that eaſy and wholeſome exerciſe, for 4d. 5d. or 6d, according to their age and ſkill, without victuals from their employer; and who deck themſelves out with their purchaſes in Swinton October fair by their gains. Mowers have without meat generally 18d. a day, though they often undertake it at 2s. or 2s. 6d. per acre. Stout women reapers have from 10d. to 11d. and 3 meals.—Men 1s. and ſometimes 13d. and their meals. Corn is generally threſhed by weight for the 25th part of what is threſhed and dreſſed, but during harveſt no ſtout man at his liberty will threſh upon any other terms, than being paid as a reaper. Carpenters and maſons always find their own meat, and are paid from 1s. 3d. to 2s. according to their ſkill, the nature of the work, and the length of the day. Taylors, who always get their meat where they work, now exact 8d. per day. A coal cart drawn by two horſes is loaded at the coal-hill for from 2s. to 3s. according as the coal is ſmall, great, or ſplint; the two laſt being double of the firſt, and the hire of the cart and horſes to Swinton is 3s. which is encreaſed every mile as carters carry them farther.

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF NENTHORN.

(PRESBYTERY OF KELSO, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE, COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

By the Rev. MR. ABRAHAM KER.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c.

THE name is derived from ſome remarkable thorn trees. The preſent incumbent remembers a very large one in the pariſh. The length of this diſtrict, from S. to N. is about 4 miles, and the breadth from E. to W. about as much *. The meaſurement is about 1900 acres. It is moſtly low ground with a moderate deſcent to the S. except a riſing in the north part of the pariſh, the north ſide of which falls to the N. The ſoil in ſome parts is remarkably good, a ſmall part of the north end, however, is very poor muir ground upon a deep clay. The air is good and healthy.

Rent.—The real rent of the pariſh is about L. 2040. The incloſures are among the very beſt in Scotland for keeping cows or

* From Armſtrong's map of Berwickſhire, it appears the length of this pariſh is only 2½ miles and the breadth little more than 1½.

or feeding cattle or ſheep, and producing milk and fine butter. A cow's graſs cannot be got in theſe incloſures under L. 3; and they are let at more than L. 2 per acre for ſummer paſture. There are 4 heritors, one of whom reſides.

Population.—The relation to Dr Webſter in 1755 was 497 ſouls; the preſent number of inhabitants is between 300 and 400; the diminution being owing to the ſetting large farms, and caſting down two villages. For 4 years preceding 1792, the births were 44, the deaths 13, and the marriages 9. There are 8 farmers, 2 ſmiths, 4 wrights, 2 weavers, and 3 maſons in the pariſh.

Stipend, and Poor.—The ſtipend is L. 600 Scotch, 2 chalders of barley, and 2 of oat meal, with a glebe of 6 acres. The King is patron. The number of poor on the roll is 6, and the amount of the aſſeſſment for their ſupport for the firſt half year of 1792, is L. 12 : 12.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The ſtone in the pariſh is generally blue whin ſtone, with one quarry of red free ſtone; on the ſide of the water of Eden are two rocks commonly called the Meikle and Little Thairn.—There is one lake called Lurgie Loch.—Dotterels appear in a little flock on the muirs for a few weeks in June.—Both clay and ſhell marle are uſed here for manure.—Coal is the common fuel, brought from England, and from Lothian. The price is about 1s. per Cwt.—There are in the north part of the pariſh 2 or 3 ſtones with large ſeams, which it is ſaid Mr Pocock when paſſing that way thought to have been cemented together: but they have been carried from the Lurgie craig, where are plenty of ſuch ſtones. When broken, they do not break at the ſeams. They have been dug up, but nothing was found under them.

NUMBER XXXVIII

PARISH OF AUCHTERMUCHTY.

(PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. JAMES LISTER, A. M.

Name, Extent, and Surface.

THE town, from which the pariſh takes its name, is called Auchtermuchty; which, as thoſe who are acquainted with the Gaelic language ſay, ſignifies, 'the cottage of 'the king.'—If ſo, it is more than probable, that thistown had been originally intended for the accommodation of the king's ſervants, during his reſidence at Falkland. The pariſh is 2 miles in length, and 1¼ mile in breadth.

The general appearance of the country in this pariſh is extremely various. Towards the S. the ground is ſo low and flat that were it not for drains, a great part would be covered with water after heavy rains.—Towards the N. and N. W. the country aſſumes a hilly appearance. There nature is ſeen in its wildeſt forms, and thoſe fond of romantic ſcenes are much gratified by contemplating "the goodly proſpect of hills and "dales that ſpread around." But though mountainous, and covered with heath in general, it is not altogether barren or uſeleſs.

uſeleſs. Some ſpots have been cultivated within theſe few years; and there is a large plantation of firs, interſperſed with ſome larix, in a very flouriſhing ſtate, the property of Mr Gourlay of Kilmarron, a gentlemen well known in this country, not only for his enterpriſing ſpirit, but alſo for his judicious and extenſive improvements.

Soil, Climate, &c.—Around the town the ground is rather light, looſe, and black, ſomewhat gravelly and ſtony. Towards the S. and S. E. there is a mixture of black clay, loam and mellow earth, ſo exceedingly fertile, that there is perhaps not a richer ſpot in Scotland. Some incloſures lying towards the N. W. of the pariſh have been particularly remarked for the production of excellent paſture, ſingularly calculated for feeding cattle, and conſequently have rented very high to graziers for ſome years paſt *.

There is plenty of free ſtones and other ſorts commonly uſed in building.—There are four remarkable echoes in the pariſh †.

* The air is good and healthy. Conſumptions are the moſt prevalent diſtemper, particularly among young women, which perhaps may be attributed to their ſtaying at home, ſpinning at two-handed wheels, and not enjoying that comfortable diet, and moderate exerciſe, the reſult of being in ſervice.

† The migratory birds are the wild gooſe, the lap-wing and the fieldfare.—The wild geeſe make their appearance about the firſt of November, and leave this place about the firſt of April. The lap-wing is as it were the harbinger of ſpring.—When that is early, they appear in February, but if the weather is ſevere, they come not till March; they go for England or Ireland about the end of September. They are much diminiſhed in numbers within theſe few years, becauſe the gentlemen in this neighbourhood are now draining their moſſes and cultivating their muir grounds, the uſual haunts of this beautiful though gloomy bird. The fieldfare comes from the northern countries in the month of December; but when the winter is mild it makes a very ſhort ſtay.

Cattle.—Much attention is paid to the breed of cattle; a great many are reared of good size and great value. Of late the cattle dealers from England have been in the habit of purchasing them privately, which has injured the markets considerably. They give from L. 6 to L. 12. before they are fattened; and calves new dropt, which could have been purchased a few years ago at 4s. to 5s. last season gave from 10s. to 12s. It is so far well for the country, that there is such a demand; for, considering the advanced price of labour, and the high rents given for land, if either the cattle or grain were to diminish much in value, none of those tenants who have got new tacks could possibly pay their rents; a circumstance to which gentlemen of landed property would do well to attend, if they regard their own interest, and the comfort of such a respectable and useful body of men.

Population.—On account of the different sectarists in this parish, which will be afterwards more particularly taken notice of, it is difficult to ascertain with precision the increase of population; as these sectarists seldom register the births of their children in the books appropriated for that purpose; but it is the opinion of some aged inhabitants, whose veracity may be depended upon, that the number of the inhabitants and houses within the town, has encreased at least one half within these 60 years.

Number of souls in 1755		halt - -	147
- - -	1308	Males - -	61
——— in 1792 -	1439	Females - -	86
In the town - -	1134	In the country -	158
Males - -	527	Males - -	75
Females - -	607	Females - -	83
In the village of Danes-		Total males - -	663
			Total

Total Females -	776
Annual average of births, for 10 years preceding 1792, as nearly as can be computed -	35½
——— of marriages*	18
——— of deaths -	21
Age of the oldeſt man	92
Conſiderable farmers	12
Linen manufacturers	205
Taylors - -	20
Blackſmiths -	7
Wrights - -	15
Saddler - -	1
Shoemakers - -	18
Wheelwrights -	3
Coopers - -	3
Heel-makers -	2
Dyers - - -	2
Bakers - - -	6
Butchers - -	4
Hairdreſſer (who acts occaſionally as a player)	1
Barbers - -	2
Surgeons - -	2
Their apprentices -	4
Writer - - -	1
Merchants - -	6
Shopkeepers - -	10
Eſtabliſhed clergyman	1
Relief ſeceding do. -	1
Burgher do. do. -	1
Antiburgher do. do. -	1
Eſtabliſhed church, not including children	620
Relief church, do†.	284
Burghers, do. - -	189
Antiburghers, do. -	93
Batchelors above 25 years of age - - -	16

Inſtead

* It is to be regretted that little attention is paid to the regiſtration of marriages and deaths, as this neglect not only injures the ſeſſion clerks, but the revenue itſelf. The tax indeed is very unpopular; and the act of Parliament which impoſes it ought either immediately to be enforced or repealed.

† The diviſions in this pariſh commenced ſoon after the depoſition of Mr Gilleſpie. Theſe ſurely are among the greateſt judgements which can befal any place. They are a judgement temporally, as they take away the ſubſtance of families to ſupport miniſters, and thus often prevent the juſt claims of others being paid. They are a judgement ſpiritually, as they extinguiſh that ſpirit of love and charity, the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtics of our holy religion. At the ſame time, the pariſh miniſter lives on very good terms with their clergy, who ſeem to be well diſpoſed men, and he deſires to love all who are lov-

ers

Inſtead of any leaving the pariſh for want of employment, or there being any uninhabited houſes, a demand for both daily encreaſes, although upwards of 40 new houſes have been built within theſe few years.

Natural Productions.—Comparing the fertility of the land in this pariſh to what it was in former times, a very remarkable difference will be found; there is no reaſon to doubt but that one fifth more of proviſion is annually produced, than what was raiſed in the ſame time, on the memory of many yet alive. To account for this, recourſe muſt be had to the hiſtory of ſociety in its progreſs from a rude to a civilized ſtate. It is acknowledged by all, that when mankind were in an uncultivated ſtate, every individual provided for himſelf all the neceſſaries of life; but as the manners of the human ſpecies improved, the arts were divided among different hands, and individuals, with the fruit of their reſpective employments, purchaſed from the manufacturers of other commodities whatever they ſtood in need of. Thus every thing was not only procured at a much eaſier rate, but finiſhed in much greater perfection. It was but lately that Scotland, eſpecially this part, and places adjoining to populous towns and villages, arrived at a proper knowledge of agriculture. The learned Dr. Anderſon's treatiſe, and others on this ſubject, begin now to be read with advantage by farmers; and conſequently the modern ſyſtem of huſbandry is generally adopted. The miniſter too, who farms about twenty acres, flatters himſelf that he has been of ſome uſe

ers of the truth, though they may differ in leſſer matters. It is well for the miniſters of the eſtabliſhed church, that their ſubſiſtence does not depend on the caprice of the people, as the relievers here lately turned off an inoffenſive old man who had preached to them upwards of twenty years; and who muſt have ſuffered in the evening of life, had not their injuſtice been compenſated by the benevolence of a ſon.

uſe to his pariſh in this reſpect; as within theſe three years he has raiſed turnips, potatoes, wheat, and barley on a ſpot where they were never before ſeen in the memory of man. The crop on that ground this ſeaſon is ſurpaſſed by none in the country. There are in the pariſh only one ſmall flock of ſheep, about 160 horſes, and 230 cows, in general of a good breed. The pariſh contains upwards of 3000 acres, 90 of which are generally appropriated to the raiſing of flax. Although the crop this ſeaſon promiſes well, yet for theſe ſome years paſt it has been very indifferent, which makes it the more to be regretted that the Honourable Board of Truſtees ſhould have curtailed the bounty on that article. There are about 70 acres in turnips and cabbage, 150 in wheat, 200 in ſown graſs, and 160 in paſture; the remainder is occupied in raiſing oats, barley and potatoes. All the waſte grounds, to the extent of between 6 or 700 acres, are planted with fir. In general beans and peaſe are ſown in the end of March, oats in April and barley in the beginning of May. Conſidering the backwardneſs of the ſeaſons of late, ſowing ought to commence more early; yet ſome of the old farmers ſtill delay it, alledging, that they did not begin laſt year till ſuch a week, or ſuch a day; as if providence always limited the ſeaſon to a week or a day. The wheat which is ſown in the months of September and October, is generally cut down along with the barley in the months of Auguſt and September following.

There is marle, but no other kinds of minerals have yet been diſcovered. The gardens produce every neceſſary vegetable and root, together with all kinds of common fruits. A ſmall rivulet flows directly through the town and falls into the river Eden, a little below the village of Daneſhalt, which terminates the ſouthern part of the pariſh.

Manufactures.—Auchtermuchty is well calculated for

 manufactories,

manufactories, being ſituated in a healthy fertile country.—A gentleman from Glaſgow propoſes to eſtabliſh a tambour branch immediately, which muſt contribute to the proſperity of the town, as thereby a number of children, who at preſent can be of no ſervice either to themſelves or their parents, will find employment. It muſt alſo be an eligible ſituation for an woolen branch, conſidering its vicinity to the Lomond hills, and the frequent opportunities of conveying wool from the Ochils. Such is the ſpirit of induſtry and enterprize, which now actuates the inhabitants, that a manufactory of that ſort could not fail to ſucceed. From the books of the ſtamp-maſter of Auchtermuchty, it appears that, from 1ſt November 1790 to 1ſt November 1791, he ſtamped

239,244¼ yards of 35 inch wide brown linen, valued at 9½d. per yard	L. 9470	1	8⅓
260,093 yards of 30 and 27 inch wide brown Sileſia linen, valued at 8d. per yard	8669	15	10
2,212¾ yards of white linen, at 8d.	73	15	2
Total L.	18,213	12	8⅓

Great part of the above muſt be manufactured in the town, and the immediate neighbourhood, as there are ſtamp offices in Falkland and Newburgh, which are within two and three miles of Auchtermuchty. An ordinary journeyman weaver will work 9 ſpindles in a week, at 1s. per ſpindle, but others who are more expert at their buſineſs, will weave 17 ſpindles at the ſame rate. L. 50,000 ſterling is annually expended by green linen merchants in this town for that article *.

Eccleſiaſtical

* Wages within theſe 20 years are more than double, at that period 5d. halfpenny per ſpindle, was the ordinary price. Labourers now receive 1s. per day, wrights 1s. 2d. maſons 18d. taylors who work out of their houſes 8d.

Ecclesiastical State, Town, &c. Auchtermuchty was constituted a royal burgh by James the IV. which charter was renewed by James the VI. It enjoys all the privileges of a royal burgh, but that of sending a representative to parliament. It has 3 bailies chosen annually at Michaelmass, 15 councillors, (one of them treasurer) and a clerk. The annual income of the town's property is L. 106 : 14 : 6, which arises from the custom of fairs, rent of the mills, &c. How that money is disposed of is best known to those to whom the management of it is intrusted. By the charter there was a market appointed to be held every Tuesday, which it is to be regretted is now done away. There are four considerable fairs in the year, the one held on the 13th of July, by the same charter, was to continue 8 days. It is now one of the most considerable in Fife, for the sale of black cattle, horses, sheep, wool, &c.

The church was built in 1780. The patronage belongs to Moncrieff of Reedy, an antient and respectable family, who received some signal tokens of favour from one of the Scottish kings, when residing at Falkland. The stipend is 3 chalders of barley, 3 chalders of oats, and L. 36 : 13 : 4. sterling. The glebe is now let at L. 19. Sterling.—There are 65 heritors, of whom 57 reside in the parish. A new manse is just now finished, and much to the honour of the heritors is inferior to none in the country; the church too is well finished, and superior to the generality in the neighbourhood. There is a flour mill, a corn mill, and 2 lint mills. Within these few years there was a cotton work; but one of the partners dying before it had well commenced, it is converted into a mill for

8d. and their victuals. When a common labourer is frugal and well married, he can do more than support himself and family. The usual wages of male servants in husbandry are from L. 6 : to L. 7. *per annum.* A female servant L. 2 : 10s. besides as much ground as will sow 2 lippies of flax seed.

dressing flax. The price of beef and mutton is generally about 4d. and 4½d per lib.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The chief disadvantages consist in being at a distance from coal, there being none nearer than Balbirnie and Balgony, 6 miles off; but were the proprietors of these mines to erect a coal yard here, they would find their account in so doing. Another is, the want of a proper schoolmaster and school-house; and without an augmentation of salary, which at present is only L. 5 : 11s. it can never be expected that a man of merit will devote his time and talents for such a trifle. It is worthy of remark that the youth in this place have been, and now are, ruined with bad schoolmasters; and to this may be attributed in a great degree the narrow and uncharitable dispositions of the inhabitants, and that bigotry and party spirit which manifests itself in all the actions of those who are given to divisive courses.—The rent of tradesmen's houses is from 20s. to 50s. The valued rent of the parish is L. 5782 Scots, and the land-rent of L. 4000 sterling. The lands immediately around the town let from L. 2 : to L. 3 : 10s. per acre, though it must be acknowledged that those who pay such rents have other means of subsisting themselves and families than from the produce *.

The

* Several places take their names from some remarkable circumstances, which had happened at or near them. Daneshalt is supposed to signify the *shelter of the Danes*, as it is said that formerly the Danes having made an invasion into the country, were repulsed in Falkland muir, fled, and concealed themselves in the lower part of the parish of Auchtermuchty. Daneshalt is half a mile distant from Auchtermuchty; and the road to Falkland, Kirkaldy, and Kinghorn lies directly through this village, which is the property of Ebenezer Marshall, Esq. of Hill Cairny, who is doing every thing to encrease the number of its inhabitants, by feuing out ground for building, &c. The great M'Duff is supposed to have lived once in Auchtermuchty, in a house

now

The roads and bridges are getting into high repair; and the advantage of the turnpikes which are now eſtabliſhed in this county, will ſoon be felt by all ranks, though at preſent, the common people do not reliſh them, as they deem the ſtatute-labour a great hardſhip. It is in contemplation to repair the road from Perth to Kinghorn, through Auchtermuchty-hill, which will add to the proſperity of the town; for travellers will naturally come this way, inſtead of going by the Ferry, as it will ſave them twenty miles journeying. The poſt ought alſo to come this way, and the poſt-office for this diſtrict to be eſtabliſhed here, rather than at Falkland; as this is not only a more centrical place, and more buſineſs carried on, but it is alſo in a direct line from Kinroſs to Cupar, and St. Andrews.

The inhabitants of this pariſh, with a few exceptions, are very induſtrious, and rather economical than otherwiſe; in ſo much that there are only 6 on the poor's liſt. There is here a ſociety diſtinguiſhed by their ſocial habits, their hoſpitality, and their benevolence to the poor. Upon the whole, if Sir John Sinclair wiſhes that his *patriotic exertions* ſhould be effectually crowned with ſucceſs, and the condition of the country meliorated, he muſt deviſe ſome means of increaſing the ſalaries of country ſchoolmaſters; ſo that men of merit may be induced to take upon them that important charge, the education of youth; for as the poet ſays.

" 'Tis education forms the human mind.
" Juſt as the twig is bent, the tree's inclin'd."

now the property of William Marſhall, Eſq.—In the South Eaſt end of the pariſh, there are the remains of a road: it commences at the eaſt end of Roſie-brae, and runs in a direct line to Falkland. In ploughing the lands where it lies, the plough is frequently obſtructed by large ſtones; and what makes it more remarkable is, that theſe lands about 50 years ago were overflown with water.

NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF ORDIQUHILL.

(PRESBYTERY OF FORDYCE, SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, COUNTY OF BANFF.)

By the Rev. Mr. Robert Ogilvie.

Name, Extent, and Stipend.

ORDIQUHILL is of Gaelic original, and ſignifies, the "hollow beſide the height." The Earl of Findlater is patron; and, though he has not a foot of ground in the pariſh, pays moſt of the ſtipend. The pariſh is of an oblong form, being near 4 miles in length, from N. to S. and about 3 in breadth. It was formerly a chapelry in the pariſh of Fordyce, where public worſhip was performed once a month; and ſeems to have been erected into a ſeparate pariſh, about the year 1622. The church, which was built about the ſame time, on the ſpot where then ſtood St. Mary's chapel, is, at preſent, in bad repair; as is alſo the mance and office houſes. The ſtipend, including the glebe, which here is not worth much, is about L. 70 ſterling yearly—Previous to the augmentation, which took place in 1766, it was one of the ſmalleſt ſtipends in Scotland, being in all not above L. 30 ſterling *per annum*.—The ſchoolmaſter's

maſter's ſalary is 8 bolls of meal, L. 1 : 5 as ſeſſion clerk; and, the profits ariſing from baptiſms and marriages, and from about 40 ſcholars.

Names of Places, Mineral Springs, &c.—The names of places in this pariſh ſeem moſtly of Gaelic original.——There are ſeveral excellent mineral wells in the pariſh; which were formerly much frequented. They are of a medicinal quality, and are known to be uſeful in many complaints, particularly thoſe of a ſcorbutic nature. One of them, being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was formerly at certain ſeaſons much reſorted to by the ſuperſtitions as well as the ſick. The air here is ſalubrious, and the people healthy, hoſpitable and induſtrious. —The face the country is wildly beautiſul, and correſponds exactly with the ſignification of the name given to it.

Produce and Rent.—About two thirds of the pariſh are arable; the other is ſtill in a ſtate of nature, and partly covered with heath. The ſoil is, in general, deep; but cold and wet at the bottom. A conſiderable quantity of lint, turnips and potatoes are raiſed here; but hemp, cabbages, and the like, however, are ſeldom produced in the fields. Though there are 3 or 4 farms of about 100 acres arable, beſides a conſiderable extent of paſture, the higheſt rent, every thing included, does not exceed L 40 ſterling yearly. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 1700 Scots; the real rent at preſent, including ſervitudes, amounts to about L. 700 ſterling.

Proprietor and Improvements.—Sir Erneſt Gordon of Park, who generally reſides in the pariſh, is ſole proprietor; and his houſe, which is lately fitted up in the modern taſte, is commodious and elegant; and ſurrounded by a number of venerable aſh, and other trees, in a thriving way. He is ſpread-

ing improvements rapidly around him; and there is now a probability, that agriculture will advance apace; though, in this part of the country, it muſt be confeſſed ſhe is but in her infancy. There is moſs enough here for generations to come, and ſtones ſufficient for the purpoſe of incloſing; and, though the pariſh cannot boaſt of woods, and groves, of foreſts, and water-falls, yet it can be ſaid that it has winding rills, and purling ſtreams, in abundance; and that there is ſcarcely a farm, or cot-houſe, in this diſtrict, but has ſome ſpreading trees to ſcreen and adorn it. Aſh and other hard woods thrive tolerably well; however, the ſoil, in general, ſeems better adapted for aller and other aquatics; and there is the pleaſing proſpect, that the oaklings, and various ſeedlings, that have lately been planted, will give an agreeable variety to this part of the country, and prove a laſting ſource of wealth and amuſement to the induſtrious proprietor.

Hills.—The Knock hill, part of which belongs to this pariſh, is about 2500 feet above the level of the ſea; and, as its towering head in ſeen from afar, it becomes an excellent landmark to thoſe who trade in the Murray Firth. It is ſituated, as it were, in a large capacious plain; and, while it produces a variety of excellent game for the amuſement and health of the ſportſman, and ſuggeſts to the contemplative mind an idea of the grand, the ſublime, and the beautiful, it affords a delicious repaſt for the flocks and herds of thoſe that live near. The pariſhes of Grange, Fordyce, and Ordiquhill meet on the top of this hill; and, on the very ſpot where they meet, is a terminus, or mark, from which is ſeen the greater part of Caithneſs, Roſs, Banff, Murray, &c. the windings of the Devern, part of Spey, the Murray Firth, the German ocean, &c. &c. as far as the eye can reach. In ſhort, this hill affords one of

the

the moſt grand, beautiful, and variegated proſpects ſouth of the Tweed *.

Population.—There are, at preſent, 517 ſouls in the pariſh, and, of theſe, 130 below ten years of age.—Several old people died lately, upwards of 90. The oldeſt perſon juſt now, is about 86, there are three men above 80, and as many women; one of them was never married. The number of males and females, is nearly equal. There 452 examinable perſons in it, 6 Seceders, about as many Methodiſts, two Roman Catholics, and one Epiſcopalian.

There is only one village in the pariſh. It contains, at preſent but 12 families. It is called Cornhill: and near it, during the ſummer ſeaſon, there are annually held ſome well frequented markets. There are but few handycraftſmen; and, at preſent, only 3 apprentices.——The farms are, in general, uninclofed, and but ſmall; being commonly from L. 5 to L. 20 ſterling yearly rent.—Till of late, however, few leaſes were given without a graſſum.—The people are, in general, modeſt, ſober, and of a religious deportment; and, though few of them may be ſaid to be rich, yet there has not been any begging poor, belonging to the pariſh, in the memory of man.—The contributions, ſeat rents, &c. &c. for the behoof of the poor, amount to about L. 6 : 10 *per annum*.—There are, at an average, in the pariſh, 5 marriages, 18 births, and 10 deaths annually.

* The ſeed time here is commonly finiſhed ſoon after Whitſunday, and, by the middle of October, the farmer, in general, ſees his corn beyond the power of the ſtorm.

Among the many improvements that might be introduced into this part of the country, a bridge, on the great road between Huntly and Portſoy, over the Boyn, which partly runs through the pariſh, is much needed. For want of ſuch an accommodation, ſeveral uſeful members of ſociety have loſt their lives; and a woman, in attempting to croſs it, was with her horſe hurried down the ſtream, where they periſhed.

annually.——The number of inhabitants has continued for these hundred years past, nearly what it is at present. The return to Dr. Webster, however, was 666 souls *.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The people here are, in general, of a contented mind, not given to any peculiar vice, and regular attendants on public worship; and, though few of them are gaudily dressed, yet most of them appear at the church in clean and decent apparel.—About 30 years ago, there were only 3 hats, and 3 watches in the parish, being those the proprietor, the minister, and the schoolmaster; but now almost every labouring servant has his hat, and watch, his English cloth coat, his white thread stockings, &c. The ordinary fuel is peat, and turf; and the making of tether bindings, and ropes from moss-fir, is common all round this part of the country †.

Mr. Walter Goodall, a native of this parish, assisted Mr. Thomas Ruddiman, in several of his productions; and, about the year 1750 published 2 vols. 8vo. in defence of Mary Queen of Scots.

There

* The price of labour here is much increased of late; as is also that of every thing. About 30 years ago a labouring servant would have been got for L. 2 : 10, and now he cannot be had under L. 6 sterling a year. Female servants earn from L. 2 to L. 3 sterling yearly.—The surplus grain, which annually amounts to some hundred bolls, is generally carried to Portsoy, or Banff, the nearest sea port towns; to which places, also, and Cullen, most of the other surplus products are carried for sale.

† There is a woman in this parish, that has the perfect use of all her faculties, though she has not been above half an hour *at once* out of bed these 30 years. A disappointment in love is thought to have been the cause; for, about 33 years ago, upon her father's discouraging a young man's paying his addresses to her, she went to bed, and has never left it since. The struggle, it seems, between love and filial affection, ran so high, as materially to affect her active powers.

There is but one inn in the parish.—Several hundreds of cattle, sheep, &c. are carried annually from hence to the southward. Land is commonly ploughed by oxen; oxen and horses, however, are joined to the same plough.—But to conclude this short imperfect account; at a distance from the abodes of luxury and vice, the wants of the people of this parish are but few; and nothing seems more calculated for bettering their external circumstances, and making their days glide on comfortably, than extending leases to a greater length, and encourageing them to inclose, drain, and improve their farms. Such a measure would also be highly beneficial to the proprietor *.

* Meal generally sells at about 9d halfpenny per peck;—beef and mutton at 3d halfpenny;—a good hen at 8d.—and a fat lamb at 3s.—A labourer earns about 10d. a day;—a mason 16d.—a carpenter 14d.—and a taylor 6d. and his maintenance.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF LITTLE DUNKELD.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN ROBERTSON.

Name, Extent, Surface, &c

THE parish of Little Dunkeld is united to that of Laganalachie; the latter deriving its name from a saint called Aulachy*.

The figure of the parish is a kind of irregular triangle, the longer sides being the northern and southern boundaries, each of them from 15 to 16 miles in length, and the shorter, the western limit, which stretches from the Tay on the N. to the river Bran, at Amulrie, (an inn on the military road from Stirling to Tay bridge) at the S. W. corner. Nature has divided it into three districts, each of which would make a parish of ordinary magnitude, both in respect of extent and population. The first begins at the eastern extremity next the parish of Kinclaven,

* It appears from Dean Miln's manuscript Memoirs of the cathedral of Dunkeld (in the possession of the Duke of Atholl), that the parish of Caputh once made a part of this district, from which it was detached about a century before the Restoration.

claven, and ends at a ſmall village called Invar, about a quarter of a mile W. from the church. Murthly, the reſidence of the Stewarts of Grandtully, is in this diſtrict, and preſents itſelf to the eye of the traveller, at the diſtance of a mile on the right hand, the moment he comes in ſight of the Tay, upon the great Highland road from Perth to Dunkeld. This may be called the diſtrict of Murthly, as the barony of that name makes the greateſt part of it.

The ſoil towards the E. is a kind of black loam with a ſmall mixture of ſand. It is for the moſt part light and free, but not ungrateful to the huſbandman who treats it with ſkill and induſtry. The ſurface is waving and various, but no where too ſteep for the plough. The incloſures of Murthly are ſpacious and beautiful. There is a large tract of uncultivated heathy muir, all capable of cultivation; but a conſiderable part of it is covered with valuable woods. The weſtern part of this diſtrict conſiſts of a ſtripe of arable land, extending three miles below Invar, in the bottom of a deep narrow vale along the Tay, adorned with oak woods and plantations.

The hill of Birnam, rendered claſſic ground, by the magic pen of Shakeſpear, riſes on the ſouth ſide of this vale, with a rude and ſtriking magnificence, to an elevation higher than that of the Sidla hills in Forfar-ſhire oppoſite to it. The ſoil is a mixed ſand, far from being unproductive when cultivated with judgement.

The ſecond diſtrict ſtretches from Invar along the Tay about 10 miles, till it joins Grandtully in the pariſh of Dull. The greateſt part of this tract, having once been the property of the ſee of Dunkeld, is called the biſhopric; under which name therefore this whole diſtrict may be comprehended. It contains a conſiderable number of inhabitants.

The cultivated lands make the ſouth ſide of a charming valley, through which the river winds its courſe in a gentle majeſtic

current. The fields are level and of eaſy culture. A regular ſyſtem of agriculture would ſoon give this diſtrict the appearance of an almoſt continued ſeries of beautiful gardens, from the one extremity to the other. A ride through the whole length of this diviſion is peculiarly delightful to a traveller, paſſing alternately through woods and lawns, at the bottom of a long range of mountains, preſenting a bold and elevated face; and which by its various angles and ſtriking projections, is ever and anon entertaining the eye with varying ſhades of light, and new proſpects, on each ſide of the valley.——Two or three gentlemens ſeats, of a ſnug and romantic appearance, add conſiderably to the beauty of the rural ſcene. The ſoil conſiſts chiefly of ſand, with ſome mixture of loam.

The remaining diſtrict is ſeparated from the biſhoprick by a large tract of hilly ground of conſiderable extent and elevation: This too, is a valley, extending 9 miles weſtward, from Invar to Amulrie, and derives the name of Strath-bran from the river Bran, which runs through its whole length, and falls into the Tay oppoſite Dunkeld. The arable fields riſe from the river towards the hills, on each ſide, in a gentle ſlope. The country is planted thick with populous hamlets and farms; ſuſtains about 1400 inhabitants, old and young, and looks cheerful and thriving. One of the proprietors has his reſidence near the weſtern extremity of this diſtrict, which he is beginning to improve conſiderably both in the way of agriculture and planting. The ſoil of this country is of no mean quality, being a mixture of reddiſh clay and loam. It abounds more in moiſture than the other diſtricts, and is very favourable to the growth of flax.

The hills of the pariſh are thoſe already mentioned, together with a long tract, of about 4000 acres, on the ſouth ſide of the Bran. They are for the moſt part covered with heath, and ſome of the eminences are rather barren; but in general, they

are coated over with a mixed heavy mould, pretty deep, and producing, along with heather, various ſpecies of plants affording good paſture; they riſe no where ſo high as to be deſtitute of all uſeful vegetation. There are frequently deep falls of ſnow upon theſe mountains; yet it is ſeldom that a very conſiderable part of their ſurface remains covered for three ſucceſſive weeks *.

As there is not a map of this pariſh, its extent of ſurface cannot be aſcertained with preciſion, but from partial ſurveys that have been made, and Mr Stobie's excellent map of the county, there is ſufficient ground for ſtating it at 31,000 Scotch acres.

Diſeaſes, Minerals, Woods.—Chronic diſtempers are not frequent: The moſt prevalent is the rheumatiſm, and that chiefly among

* There is no great peculiarity that diſtinguiſhes this from the bordering highland pariſhes of Dowally, Logierate and Dull, with reſpect to air and climate; they are temperate and ſalubrious throughout the pariſh in general. The two diſtricts along the Tay are free from bogs and ſtagnant waters, and of conſequence, from the humidity of atmoſphere produced by theſe circumſtances. Their ſummers are warm, and vegetation forward; barley is often ſtacked in the barn yard within leſs than four months from the ſowing of it in the field. A great part of this country is expoſed to ſevere and unſeaſonable hoar froſts, which prove hurtful to lint, potatoes and other crops, even in May, but more ſo in Auguſt. Great ſwarms of caterpillars infeſt this part of the pariſh, and large oak woods, have ſometimes been entirely ſtripped of their foliage, for ſeveral months, by theſe inſects. Dry eaſterly winds generally ſet in from the beginning of April, to the end of May; but in other months, theſe winds are always attended with rains.

Strathbran is not ſo ſubject as other parts of the pariſh to hoar-froſts, but it is much colder, and vegetation later; barley and lint find always a timely harveſt, but oats often fail of coming to full maturity. This is not to be wondered at, when it is conſidered that the bed of the Bran is, at an average, above 200 feet higher than that of the Tay.

among the aged of the poorer sort, and probably owing to scarcity of fuel and cold lodging. The small pox is not peculiarly malignant. About 16 persons were destroyed by a putrid sore throat in summer 1775; but that disease has not appeared since. The worst epidemics are fevers, which sometimes spread their contagion to some extent; but may be traced for the most part to great towns, whence young people at service bring home the infection.

Below Murthy, is an inexhaustible body of free stone, of a very fine grain, a light, vivid ash colour, and so hard as to resist for centuries the injuries of the weather. The cathedral of Dunkeld with its tower, were built of stones from this quarry. In the hill of Birnam, is abundance of slate that splits into plates of a convenient size and thickness, of a deep blue colour bordering on violet, and exceedingly beautiful. Several pieces of lead ore have been lately found in this same mountain. The ore was incrusted with a white sparry, or rather quartrose substance: One piece contained about six pound weight of unmixed, compact ore, of a small grain, and covered by this kind of matrix, but open at one end. A considerable portion of lead was separated from this mass by mere roasting in a blacksmith's forge. This was found at the foot of the mountain: But upon the highest summit, also, the small fissures of the rock contain the like ore, but platy and of a less firm cohesion *.

The

* Though no iron ores have been yet discovered above ground in this parish, yet it would appear, from some springs, that this metal is lodged below the surface. About a mile above Dalguise, in the hill, is a fountain strongly impregnated with iron. The water bursts out, copiously, in a plot of level ground which it covers for many yards round with the colour of ochre. Its taste is that of green vitriol in ink, and so strong that one perceives it by only wetting his finger and applying it to his tongue. There is a spring of the very same qualities near Murthy, where the rocks, too, more clearly indicate the

The natural woods, which make no trifling part of the wealth of the parifh, confift moftly of oak; and grow in fmaller and larger clumps along the banks of the Tay, all except one wood in the eaft end of Strathbran. The grounds that produce them, are for the moft part of very poor quality, fo fteep as to be inacceffible to the plough, and incapable of cultivation. Thefe woods are treated in the way of coppice, being commonly fold to wood cutters, and felled when from 20 to 25 years old. Where the oak grows thick and unmixed with other wood, it fells at the rate of from L. 25 : to L. 40, and has fold lately fo high as L. 54 per acre. Where it grows thin, or interfperfed with birch, the acre is not of near fo much value. But a crop, 24 yards old, of all the oak coppice in the parifh would fetch at leaft L. 10,000 fterling. It occupies about 800 acres of ground. The proprietors are improving their oak woods by inclofing them with ftone walls, and filling up the vacant fpaces with planted oak. The extirpation of the birch and other bafer wood, would alfo be a great improvement. The birch woods of which there are near 200 acres, and treated alfo as coppice, are not worth, at 22 years old, above L. 2 : per acre.

The plantations will foon become a more important object than the natural woods. Within 25 years paft the Duke of Atholl has planted 1000 acres in this parifh, upon the heights round little Dunkeld and Invar, not only with Scotch fir, but with a great proportion (probably more than one half) of

the prefence of iron. In Strathbran, near the king's high-way, there is to be met with a pretty remarkable kind of clay. When wet, it feels perfectly fmooth and unctuous; when dry, it acquires a remarkable degree of induration; and when pounded, the powder affects the touch like the fineft wheat flour. This argillaceous fubftance may be fit for fome of the fineft works of the potter. But very unfortunately for this parifh, there has not been yet difcovered a fingle particle of lime ftone or foffil marle within its whole compafs.

of larix; together with many thousands of oak, ash, elm, plane, beech and other species; all exceeding 3 millions of trees. This wood makes part of a grand system of plantation, connected with that which covers the high mountains round Dunkeld on the opposite side of the river Tay; and the whole entertains the eye of the beholder with an aspect of nature peculiarly impressive and magnificent. In the bosom of this vast wood, some hundred yards from Invar, is situated the Duke's hermitage, with a cascade on the Bran, a rustic arch thrown over the river, romantic walks and gardens, and an elegant summer house, erected upon the top of a perpendicular cliff 40 feet high.—A lovely scene, and the delight of every traveller who visits it.

All the residing proprietors of the parish are engaged in extending their plantations with great activity, but more particularly Mr Stewart younger of Grandtully, and Mr Stewart of Dalguise, whose property is remarkably well wooded with both young and old trees. Exclusive of the Duke of Atholl's, there have been about a million of trees planted in the parish within ten years past. The full grown planted trees, including some thousands in the avenues acres and round the inclosures of Murthly, would sell just now at more than L. 2000.

A fir wood of 300 acres, has been rising for about thirty years upon a muir near Murthly, from seed blown by the wind from an old plantation. A considerable part of the trees is worth from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. each. Mr Stewart of Grandtully has succeeded in raising a considerable oak wood from acorns sown in pits, instead of plants from a nursery. In the wood of Invar are some old oaks, reckoned, timber and bark together, worth L. 20 each.

At the landing of the east ferry of Dunkeld, there is an oak 15, and a plane 16½, feet in girth. The average price of ash, elm,

elm, and other hard timber trees is at leaſt 1s. 2d. per cubic foot, and of Scotch fir, 6d.

Animals, Horſes, Cattle, Sheep.—A ſpecies of ſerpent abounds near the hermitage and little Dunkeld which is found no where elſe in the pariſh.—It grows to the length of 20 inches; is of a yellowiſh colour, and ſpeckled all over with brown ſpots, which give it the appearance of a beautiful marble. Its bite is not thought poiſonous. This reptile is never ſeen in elevated ſituations, but always in grounds of a warm expoſure. The black ſnake worm, from 8 to 10 inches in length, a noxious animal, is ſometimes met with, but very ſeldom, in the ſame tract of ground *.

Three lochs in the hills of Strathbran afford abundance of excellent trout, as firm and red as ſalmon, and of a much better reliſh. In the largeſt of theſe pieces of water (loch Skiach) trout are ſometimes caught that weigh about 12 lb. avoirdupois. The trout in the Bran are ſmall, but a great many of them fine cheer.

The riſing extenſive plantations already mentioned, have attracted ſome animal tribes that were utter ſtrangers to the pariſh before.——For more than ſeven years paſt, black game, and

* A quadruped found in the moors at the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh is entitled to notice, as a remarkable variety of the lizard tribe. It is about 9 inches long; the body or trunk is of an unuſual length in proportion to the tail, which does not taper gradually from the hind feet as in other lizards, but becomes ſuddenly ſmall like that of a mouſe. The back is full of ſmall protuberances, and guarded with a ſkin almoſt as hard as a ſea ſhell. The eyes large, clear and circular, like thoſe of an ordinary trout; the jaws more than an inch in length, and the teeth ſo ſtrong as to be heard making a ringing noiſe upon the iron point of a pole, at the diſtance of more than ten feet. It is believed in that part of the country, that about 50 years ago, the bite of this animal proved fatal to a child two years old. It is never ſeen but upon very dry ground. When irritated, it expreſſes its rage by the reddening and gliſtening of its eyes.

and that elegant animal the roe deer, have made their appearance, and are encreasing in number every year.

Foxes are very numerous, and badgers not a few. The woods and fields are enlivened with more than twenty species of small birds, such as woodlarks, thrushes, bullfinches, stock-doves, linnets &c. The birds of passage are woodcocks, field-fares, cuckoos, quails, swallows and some others: The birds of prey, kites, ravens and hawks.

There is no noted breed of horses in the parish. Those generally used are rather small, and of a mixed degenerate race. But since the remarkable advance of price (from L. 6 : to L. 11 : 11s.) which has taken place of late, the farmers are making horses more an object of care than they did formerly. Most of them have breeding mares, and they study to improve the breed.

Except those upon gentlemens farms, the cows are rather puny; it being too much the practice to overlook in this article. They are but poorly fed, and, of consequence, few of them let fall calves every year, and they give little more than two Scotch pints of milk even at the end of June. Having little to eat during winter, but straw, nor even that in abundance, they are wretchedly lean in the months of April and May *.

The small tenants here scarce entertain any thought of improving the breed of horned cattle, and little indeed can be done of moment in this way, till some nourishing hay or fresh vegetables are provided for them to eat in winter. The gentlemen

* The average prices of cows in ready money, about the beginning of June, are the following

A milch cow with a calf - - -	L. 4	0	0
Ditto without a calf - - - -	3	12	0
A lean cow without a calf sold to a grazier - - -	2	12	6
In November a bullock one year old - - -	0	19	6
Ditto two years old - - - -	1	15	0

men of the parish, and a few individuals on a large scale of farming, are beginning to be attentive in this respect.

There are two kinds of sheep; the black faced, brought from the southeren counties, and the white faced sort, which may be called the native breed. The former are bought when a year old at 6s. and after they have been kept here for two years, and have yielded three fleeces, are sold for about 10s. 6d. each; if kept a year longer they fetch 12s. They are generally allowed to live in open air both night and day. The native kind are housed at night even at midsummer, and are much inferior to the other both in weight and vigour; but their wool is of much superior quality. From the information of an intelligent man in the trade, it would appear, that when the wool of the black faced sheep sells (unsmeared) at 9s. per stone, that of the white faced brings 13s. 4d. These two kinds are somewhat mixed, as might be expected; yet it is surprising to what a degree they still remain distinct. The wedders of the native sheep are sold to the butcher at about 8s, and the ewes at 7s. Their mutton is excellent.

The lowest estimate of the number of horses in the parish is 624, of horned cattle of all ages 2528, and of sheep 8496.

Farms, Crops.—Till of late, four horses were yoked in a plough, and for each plough, or ploughgate, there were at least two, and in many instances, four partners. Each tenant's land was interspersed in small ridges with that of his neighbours; an arrangement commonly termed run-rig. About 15 years ago the tenants began to divide the land among themselves into small glebes or lots, and now they are beginning to cast each tenant's land into one glebe. This may be considered as the first step towards improvement. The old four horse ploughs * have been divided into two horse ploughs,

 of

* There are not above 26 four horse ploughs in the whole parish.

of which, there are now about 299 in the pariſh. Some of theſe have 6, ſome 8, ſome 10, and a few 15 acres of land to labour. But in more than two thirds of this pariſh, one of theſe ploughs, with horſes of very little more ſtrength than thoſe at preſent employed, would thoroughly labour from 24 to 30 acres; and from 16 to 20 acres, in the remaining third. What an important reduction of the number of horſes, and conſequently of expence? In one inſtance there have been eight of theſe ſmall ploughs united in one farm; in one ſix, and in another four. Some more have been united upon a ſmaller ſcale.

The grain raiſed in the pariſh is bear and oats, with a very few peaſe. The land for barley gets two ploughings; the firſt called ribbing, in the fall when it can be overtaken; the other the ſeed furrow, immediately before ſowing, which takes place from the beginning till the end of May. It is made to ſucceed oats, and is ſown with dung, and a little lime alſo when it can poſſibly be had, the people are very eager to procure it, though none can be had nearer than the port of Perth. The return in general is about five after one, but, where lime has been applied, eight and upwards. The boll weighs from 15 to 17 ſtone Dutch. About a boll is ſown in the acre. Oats are in general a ſcanty crop. The return is often below three after one. They are made to follow both barley and potatoes; but it is too general a practice to take two ſucceſſive crops of them from the ſame field. Taking both barley and oats together, the average return may be about four times the ſeed.

Peaſe are more prolific and luxuriant in the moiſt than in the dry lands of the pariſh, where the droughts and heats of June frequently dwarf the crop. The kind always ſown is hot ſeed, called in this country kaſterns. They are ſown about the middle of April, and reaped from the middle to the end of September. The produce is ſeldom more than three ſeeds.

They

They are chiefly considered on account of the ſtraw they produce, and as a meliorating crop for the land.

The cultivation of artificial graſſes has been hitherto little practiſed; but great numbers of the farmers are now making trials of them, and a general eagerneſs for theſe crops begins to ſhow itſelf. Some few have adopted them into their ſcheme of huſbandry, and not one who has begun the practice would be perſuaded to quit it. An acre laid down with 20 lb. of red clover and a buſhel of rye graſs, will yield for the firſt crop about 300 ſtone of hay, and a conſiderable ſecond crop the ſame ſeaſon, for green feeding in the ſtall, if 25 bolls of lime ſhells have been applied. All the land in the pariſh is favourable to the growth of turnips. When properly thinned, kept clean and well dreſſed, the roots at an average, over a whole field, will weigh 6 lb. avoirdupoiſe. This vegetable will very ſeldom outlive the ſeverity of the winter in open air, but may be ſaved by laying it up in a dry houſe or ſhed about the end of October. The reſiding heritors are very laudably ſetting an example before the tenants with reſpect to both theſe crops; Mr Stewart of Dalguiſe in particular, gives them a place in a regular rotation of cropping, which he is purſuing with judgement and perſeverance, and much to his own emolument. The eyes of all the farmers round him are eagerly fixed upon his practice.

There is no ſummer fallow uſed here, but in the way of horſe-hoed crops. So far as the deſtruction of weeds, eſpecially annuals, is the end of a fallow, it is effectually attained by the horſe hoeing of turnip and potatoes.

This laſt root has proved more beneficial to the country than perhaps any other production of the land, lint excepted. It has ſaved the tenants from the ruinous neceſſity of purchaſing meal for their families to a prodigious amount. It is not above 22 years ſince potatoes were introduced into the field, and cul-

tivated by means of the plough. The people pay much attention to the culture of this root, but still they plant too thick. A boll of heaped Linlithgow barley measure is generally planted in $\frac{3}{8}$ of an acre, or less; the return in some places is from 25 to 30 bolls, but the average is found to be 16 bolls. The quantity planted in the whole parish is 304 bolls, and the produce 4860 bolls.——This vegetable may be reckoned a full third of the food of the common people; yet they are as healthy and vigorous, at least, as before; and instead of involving themselves in inextricable debt and difficulties, by purchasing meal as formerly, they can afford to sell a part of their barley to the distillers. They eat potatoes for the most part with milk, but sometimes with a little animal food from their flocks and herds. By means of this root the produce of the parish is fully adequate to the maintenance of the inhabitants.

Lint is another article of great importance to the inhabitants of this country. Potatoes and lint may be called the two feet that support them. Lint-seed is more generally sown after barley, but very often after potatoes. In the latter case where the land is somewhat moist, the ground does not get a seed furrow for lint: because this was found to be detrimental to the crop. It is sown in the state in which it was left at the digging of the potatoes; and to secure the more abundant crop of lint, some of the farmers incorporate a little lime with the soil, by means of the hoeings for the potatoes. It is by this management that the richest crops of lint are obtained. The poorer crops are from lands where sand is predominant in the composition of the soil, but rather finer lint. In whole districts of the parish, 4 stone of 22 lb. avoirdupois, mill dressed flax, from a peck of seed, Linlithgow barley measure, is no uncommon produce; the average produce, however, is 3 stone per peck.

There are 1375 pecks of lint-seed sown in the ordinary œcon-

nomy

nomy of the farms, and their produce is 4125 ſtones, beſides which, 51 pecks are ſown by adventurers for premiums, &c. producing 171 ſtones; in whole 4296 ſtones of flax. All this is made into yarn by the women of the pariſh, (12 years old and upwards), and affords them conſtant employment for ſix months in the year, and not a little in the remaining months. The yarn, all but a ſmall part of it manufactured for domeſtic purpoſes, is ſold to hawkers and others who purchaſe for the great manufactories. Weavers in the country indeed purchaſe ſome part of it, which they ſell again in webs of green cloth. A ſpindle from the lb. of heckled flax is the common ſize of yarn for ſale. Of late the ſpinning wheels with two flies have become pretty frequent, with which woman ſpin near twice as much as with the wheels of one fly. The thread is coarſer; but as the flax is but ſlightly heckled, there are more pounds from the ſtone weight, and families experience this ſize of yarn to be the more profitable. Some young women in the pariſh, without any previous teaching, are able to ſpin ſo fine a thread as 3½ ſpindles from the lb. avoirdupois.

There are five lint mills in the pariſh, moſt of them are accommodated with large ſheds roofed with ſlate, for ſtowing unſkutched flax. The board of truſtees for manufactures have given much encouragement to theſe erections, and have lately furniſhed one of the weavers with a diaper loom.

Population.

Number of ſouls, in 1755,	2919	——— ——— ——— Females,	290
——— ——— in 1776,	3051	Between 20 and 50, Males,	502
——— ——— in 1792,	2705	——— ——— ——— Females,	590
Under 10, Males	293	Between 50 and 70, Males,	179
——— ——— Females	275	——— ——— ——— Females,	190
Between 10 and 20, Males	287	Above 70, Males	48
		——— ——— Females	51

From

From 82 to 87, of both sexes - -	24
Married couples -	451
Widowers - -	37
Widows - -	112
Annual average of baptisms for 3 years preceding 1792 - -	45
——————— of marriages - - -	19
Weavers - -	160
Masons - - -	10
Wrights - - -	31
Taylors - -	35
Shoemakers - -	31
Smiths - -	11
Men servants -	64
Maid-servants -	101
Livery-servants -	6
Schoolmasters -	3
Flax-dressers - -	23
Day labourers -	43
Fishermen - -	6
Writer or attorney -	1
His apprentice - -	1
Gardener - -	5
Excise officer - -	1
Chelsea pensioners -	3

The decrease between 1776 and 1792 can be no otherwise accounted for but by the uniting of farms, and by the migration of some of the inhabitants to Perth and its neighbourhood, for employment at the bleachfields and extensive manufactories lately erected there, and to the village of Stanley in the parish of Aughtergaven, where there is a considerable cotton work carrying on*.

The

* The following instances of longevity have occured in the parish during the course of 23 years past; Donald Dow farmer aged 95: Michael Stiel, a farmer, 103, who walked a journey of 26 miles in one day at the age of 97, without complaining of weariness. John Stiel his brother, a travelling beggar, 105. David Paton, weaver, now living, aged 91; and Catharine M'Lean, who died about 5 years ago at the age of 103. This woman lived near the mansion house of the late Charles Campbell, Esqr. of Kinloch. He had passed 50 years of his life at Pompeio in Brasil, and returned to his native country at the age of 79. She perfectly recognized him at the first glance, though she was then about 58 years of age. Mr Campbell himself lived on his estate here for 6 years after his return, in vigorous health, and with unimpaired faculties, when he died

The proprietors are 8 in number, 4 of whom reſide on their eſtates within the pariſh, and were all batchelors, till laſt ſpring, when the principal heritor, Mr. Stewart of Grandtully, married. Beſides the above there are 4 ſmall heritors, called portioners, each of whom has but a few acres. The non-reſident heritors are men of property in other pariſhes.

The men generally marry below the age of 30, and the women from 22 to 27 years of age, and each of theſe marriages produce at an average about 6 children *.

died unexpectedly, in conſequence of having over heated himſelf walking one day in the hills.

The number of perſons from other pariſhes, may be about 30: moſt of them from Inverneſs-ſhire, ſeveral of them beggars, and the reſt in quality of ſervants. A great many of the native youth of both ſexes, paſs a few years in the low country, at ſervice, where ſome of them remain for life.

* *Language and Character.*—In that part of the pariſh which is below Invar, the people ſpeak the Scottiſh dialect of the Engliſh, and are not diſtinguiſhed by any perceptible ſhade of character from the inhabitants of the low country pariſhes around them. The reſt of the inhabitants (more than three fourths) are Highlanders, who ſpeak a dialect, not perhaps the pureſt, of the Gaelic. They have all a ſtrong attachment to their native tongue; many ſpeak Engliſh with tolerable eaſe, and the youth, by means of the charity ſchools, can write it with rather more propriety, and copiouſneſs than thoſe of the low country part of this pariſh, who are very ill ſituated with reſpect to ſchools.

In their perſons few of them are above middle ſtature, but of a ſhapely firm make. To the attributes of temperance, induſtry, probity and content, all the inhabitants are juſtly entitled, with very few exceptions. They are very ſenſible of the advantages they enjoy under a free conſtitution, and firmly attached to their rights, both civil and religious. Newſpapers and other periodical publications find their way to every corner of the pariſh. And ſeveral clubs have been formed, who purchaſe the Statiſtical Account of Scotland. Though peaceable ſubjects, they are ſoon intereſted by any public affairs in which they apprehend the general welfare of their country to be materially concerned. This diſpoſition ſhewed itſelf remarkably during the American war. Their attention is much rouſed by the momentuous tranſactions which

are

Poor, Church, and Schools.—Though the heritors have very wiſely declined burdening their lands with a permanent aſſeſſment, they make the poor an object of much attention. They hold both ſtated and occaſional meetings, along with the miniſter and kirk-ſeſſion, for enquiring into their ſtate, and providing for their neceſſities. They permit them to beg from door to door within the pariſh, but not beyond the limits of it. The number at preſent upon the pariſh roll for ſtated or occaſional ſupplies is 30*, but generally they exceed 40. The funds for their ſupport are,

Part of the intereſt of Grandtully's mortification †	L. 20	0	0
Annual average produce of the Sunday collections in the church, fees of mortcloths, marriages, &c. - - - - -	22	0	7
Intereſt at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of a capital of 220 -	6	18	0

In

are juſt now taking place on the continent of Europe. As to their religion, ſcarce a fifteenth part of them are diſſenters: The reſt are of the communion of the national church. The bulk of the diſſenters are Antiburgher ſeceders. There are 7 or 8 of the church of England, and ſcarce 3 Roman Catholics.

* One of this number, a girl about 18 years of age, and not ſound in mind, left the houſe where ſhe is lodged, either in a fit of obſtinacy or caprice upon a cold evening in February laſt, and ſtayed in a wood during 5 nights and 5 days, of the moſt intenſe froſt within that month. She laid herſelf down by the ſide of a rill, ſome draughts of which were her only ſuſtenance all this time. She returned of her own accord to the family ſhe lives with, and was ſeized with a great ſwelling in her limbs, which left her in a few weeks, and now ſhe enjoys perfect bodily health again.

† Towards the beginning of the preſent century, John Stewart, Eſq. of Grandtully mortified the ſum of 20,000 merks Scotch, originally deſtined for the ſupport of 12 poor men on his eſtate, of the communion of the Epiſcopal church of Scotland, and appointed his own heirs, and the heirs of 3 other conſiderable families nearly allied to his own, adminiſtrators of this fund.

About

In the year 1782, when not only the corn crop proved bad, but the potatoes alſo entirely failed, L. 30 of the pariſh capital, beſides 20 bolls of oats bought with a ſhare of the money voted by the parliament, were applied to the relief of the poor upon the roll, and of ſome of the poorer claſs of farmers.

There are two places of worſhip. The chapel of Laganalachie in Strathbran, and the church of Little Dunkeld. The former was lately rebuilt, and made pretty commodious by contributions from the people of that part of the united pariſhes; the latter ſtands within 60 yards of the great highland road leading from Perth to Inverneſs by the ferry of Invar, in one of the fineſt ſituations, perhaps, in the world, for a goodly edifice of that kind. It is 130 feet long by leſs than 20 feet wide, and mean, uncomfortable, and ruinous. The heritors, it is believed, are immediately to build a handſome new church. The ſtipend hitherto paid has been L. 70 : 16 : 8, including 4 guineas for communion elements; but the Commiſſioners of Tiends have lately decreed an augmentation of three chalders of victual, and a ſmall addition for communion elements, with the almoſt unanimous conſent of the heritors.

There is a glebe of about 8 Scotch acres at Little Dunkeld, and a ſmall glebe at Laganachie.

There is a pariſh ſchool at Little Dunkeld; but in ſo narrow

About the year 1740, there was a handſome building erected for the objects of the benefaction, near the great road 2 miles below Little Dunkeld. The houſe did not anſwer the intended purpoſe, and the original deſtination was found to be in many reſpects inexpedient or impracticable. By accumulation of intereſt, the capital amounted at laſt to L. 2600 ſterling; the intereſt of which is now annually applied for the relief of poor people on the eſtate indiſcriminately, without regard to their religious perſuaſion. The extenſive property of this family lies in the ſeveral pariſhes of Dull, Auchtergaven, Kinclaven, Caputh, and Little Dunkeld, to which laſt pariſh conſiderable part of it belongs.

a ſtripe of the country that few children are within 2 miles of it. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 5 : 11 : 1⅓ ſterling.—The ſociety for propagating Chriſtian knowledge have, very judiciouſly, planted two of their ſchools in this pariſh, at which are taught for a great part of the year 160 children of both ſexes. The good effect of theſe charity ſchools are manifeſt and important. By means of them the youth in the Highlands are early inſtructed in the principles of religion and morality, as well as taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and a tolerable knowledge of the Engliſh tongue. Thus ſucceſſive generations ariſe of enlightened and uſeful citizens. Some have entertained the miſtaken maxim, "That it is impolitic to "give the common people ſo much inſtruction."—A maxim bad enough for Ruſſia, or for the church of Rome during the periods of its fouleſt corruption *.

Rent.—The greateſt part of, by far, the moſt extenſive property in this pariſh was let about half a century ago, but ſome of it later, at a very low rental, for one or two lives, upon the payment of a graſſum by the tenant. Not a ſmall part of the beſt lands in the pariſh are thus rented at 1s. 8d. and ſome of them lower, per acre, in money, together with a trifle paid in mutton, butter, poultry, and ſome ſervices. When any of theſe lives fall, eight, or nine times the preſent rent is freely

* The wages of full grown men ſervants are, at an average, L. 7;—of maid ſervants L. 3 a year; a day labourer in ſummer at ordinary work, 6d. and his victuals; in winter 4d. or 5d.—at hay and corn harveſt, quarrying ſtones, and ſome other kind of work, 1s. and his victuals;—a maſon from 1s. 6d. to 2s. without board, and wrights 1s.—a taylor 6d. with board.—The average price of beef and mutton at Dunkeld is 3d. halfpenny per lb. Dutch; good veal and pork rather higher. Chickens are ſold in the country at from 3s. to 4s. per dozen, a hen at 8d. The expence of food and clothing for a day-labourer with a wife and two or three children cannot be leſs than L. 15 a year. The induſtry of the wife is neceſſary for defraying a conſiderable part of this expence.

freely offered. There is a ſmaller eſtate upon much the ſame footing. Land is let at preſent at from 15s. to 20s. per acre; but in ſome inſtances, whole farms have given ſo high a rent as 28s. per acre. The rent of a houſe and ſmall garden is from 10s. to 16s. and a tradeſman pays for an acre and a cow's graſs 30s. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4801 Scots, and the real land rent (reckoning what is in poſſeſſion of the landlords) is L. 2568 ſterling, excluſive of corn-mill rents (about L. 200). This is the rent of the whole area of the pariſh, as each poſſeſſor of arable land has a proportional intereſt in the common paſtures of the hills, as well as his ſhare of the divided paſtures. The ſalmon fiſhings on Tay fetch about L. 50.—The whole ſurface, with reſpect to produce, falls under the following diviſion.

	Acres
Graſings of the common, hills and moors	23610
Richer graſings within head dykes - -	1272
Natural oak woods - - - -	780
Ditto birch, aller, fir, &c. - - -	440
Plantations - - - - -	1200
Arable land - - - - -	3700
Total	31,000

Roads and bridges.—The road from Amulrie to the weſt ferry of Dunkeld was made, and the bridges upon it built, by government. A great part of it is too ſteep; and the whole was originally marked out with very little judgement. It has been always kept in good repair, but much better of late than formerly. The great Highland road already mentioned is a county road, till it meets that of Amulrie at the weſt Ferry, where it begins to be a military road. The want of a bridge over

the Tay at or near Dunkeld leaves these roads very imperfect. This matter cannot be unworthy of the attention and assistance of government. The road from the Ferry last mentioned (a county road) through the bishopric towards Taymouth, is much frequented; but, notwithstanding many good bridges, in wretched repair. From its mouth to Amulrie there are four public bridges on the river Bran. One of them is upon a county road from Tay bridge to Perth. This road if well executed, would be of great advantage to a considerable tract of country. But so far as it has been made it is very poor work; as are most of the roads made by means of the statute labour. The people have seldom sufficient skill for this kind of work, and always perform it with reluctance. Roads are not likely to be well made but by sufficient undertakers.—One may venture to pronounce, that so low a conversion as 6d. or even 5d. per day of the statute labour, would be far preferable to the labour in kind. There is always a very good inn at Invar, and a house lately built at Balnagaird on the Taymouth road, promises to be very comfortable to travellers *.

Improvements,

* *Antiquities, and Natural Curiosities.*—A round mount at the bottom of Birnam hill on the south east side is worthy of remark. It is faced with steep caks, except for a few yards where it was fortified by art. This eminence has been known for time immemorial, by the names of Court-hill, and *Duncan's-Hill*, and is believed to have been on some occasions occupied by the unfortunate Scottish king of that name. It looks full in the face, at the distance of about 12 miles, the celebrated Dunsinan-Hill, the seat and fortress of Macbeath. Within the range of an arrow from this mount, are to be seen a number of tumuli or small heaps of stones, about the length of a human body. It is not unlikely that upon digging, human skeletons would be found under these tumuli. Higher up the same face of Birnam are the ruins of an oblong square building, with circular turrets at the corners: It is called (in Gaelic) Forhaillon. Birnam was antiently a forest, and a part of the royal domain of Scotland.—There is a beautiful little field some more than 2 miles above little Dunkeld called *Yoke Haugh*, *(Dalmacoing)* concerning which there is the following

Improvements, and Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The hills are far from being under proper management. There is but a ſmall

lowing curious tradition. A man, who may be called the Cincinnatus of Scotland, happened, along with his two ſons, to be ploughing in this field on the day of the battle of Luncarty. Hearing the fate of the battle, and ſeeing the Scotch army retreating this way, he was inſtantly fired with heroic indignation, and together with his ſons, ſeized, each of them, the yoke of an oxen plough, perſuaded their countrymen to rally, and marching at their head, they met the Danes on the banks of the Tay, ſome where near Caputh, where there was a ſecond action, in which the Danes were completely defeated, and this aged hero exhibited prodigies of valour; in conſequence of which, he was dignified by his ſovereign with peculiar honours, obtained the name of Hay, and the implement with which he fought, for his arms.—The yoke is ſtill the arms of the noble family of Kinnoul, who are thought to be deſcended from this ſaviour of his country.

On the ſouth ſide of the Tay, a mile below Murthly, and oppoſite to the field where the engagement juſt mentioned may have taken place, though one cannot ſay with certainty that this was the occaſion of it, there is a conſiderable military entrenchment. A ditch 600 feet long, and ſtill pretty deep, is extended from a precipice on the bank of the river ſouthward, along the ſide of a deep ravin, on the oppoſite ſide of which there is a ſimilar work. At one of the angles of this trench are the remains of a circular ſtone building ſtill 15 feet deep. This work was probably executed to guard a paſs upon the Tay, which is fordable at this place.

In a plain on the bank of the Bran, 3 miles above Little Dunkeld, are to be ſeen the ruins of the caſtle of Trochrie, formerly one of the ſeats of the noble and unfortunate family of Gowrie. Some parts of the wall are yet ſtanding, which indicate the antient magnificence of the ſtructure. When the lands of that ill fated houſe were forfeited, Trochrie, and the whole extenſive barony (in ſome writs it is called Lordſhip) of Strathbran, was made a grant of by royal munificence to William Stewart of Banchrie, a gentleman of the bed chamber to King James VI. He was brother to Sir Thomas Stewart of Grandtully, from whom he inherited the patrimonial eſtate of that antient and reſpectable family; and had attained the honour of knighthood himſelf before his brother's death. In a commiſſion dated 16th November 1600, appointing Sir William baillie of Strathbran, and keeper of the king's houſe of Trochrie, and of the parks and foreſts of Strathbran, there is inſerted the following

clauſe;

small part of them divided among the proprietors, and they are all overstocked with cattle; while at the same time no regulations are put in practice for proportioning the share of each tenant's stock to his respective title to the common. The proprietors, however, seem to be now determined to divide these hills, and will, no doubt, take care to put them under proper regulations.—

clause; expressing the motive of the royal grant; "For the lang, true and "faithful service done to him by the said Sir William, and spending his time "therein, and for the late service done, being at the preserving of the king's "life frae the late conspiracy of umquhile John Earl of Gowrie, upon the "5th of August last." This clause is inserted in the original charter to the above lands, &c. dated 16th July 1606; and in the subsequent charters granted by the son and grandsons of that King.—Remains of Druidical circles, of circular buildings called castles, and prodigious piles called cairns, so frequent in other parts of the Highlands, are to be seen in different parts of this parish too. A stone bridge over the Bran, a little above Trochrie, is reckoned among the oldest in Perthshire.

The fall upon the Bran at the hermitage has been mentioned; but there is another just a mile further up the river, which cannot be passed over in silence. It is called the Rumbling Bridge. In dry weather there is little water in the Bran, and this object is not very striking; but during a considerable swell of the river it appears a very different character. For several hundred feet above the fall, the stream thunders with prodigious force down a craggy bottom, exhibiting a most dreadful cataract; then precipitating itself over a high cliff, it dashes upon the bottom of a small bason with such fury as to lose almost every appearance of a liquid, and passing next into a deep, dark, and narrow chasm, it hides itself for a little below a bridge and some huge fragments of rock suspended, mid-way down, in the passage, till it appears again on the other side of the bridge, moving in a more peaceful current, as if tired with violent agitation. The chasm is formed by rocks of equal height, awful and ruinous, about 12 feet asunder, bending towards each other at top, and every moment threatning tremenduous collision. The water rising above the bason into an atmosphere 100 feet high, resembling white smoke, and in sunshine presenting beautiful rainbows; woody precipices, the hoarse terrific roar of the torrent, and the rocking of the solid ground; all conspire to heighten the grandeur of the scene, and the whole affects the mind with a certain pleasing kind of amazement and horror.

regulations.—Grounds upon the declivities of the hills, and in flat moors to the extent of 500 acres, might be converted into arable land of no bad quality. A very public ſpirited * gentleman, made out, 25 years ago, a good large farm on a moor at the eaſt end of the pariſh, which he accommodated with ſubſtantial elegant farm houſes, and out-offices, that promiſe to turn to good account. A gentleman in the biſhopric is juſt now improving a farm, acquired from the hill, of the extent of 80 acres, which is eſtimated to be rather of ſuperior quality to the land upon the level of the Tay. It is probable that more improvements of this kind are coming on apace. From what has been already ſtated, with reſpect to produce, it is manifeſt that agriculture in this pariſh it not arrived at any advanced ſtage of improvement.

But an active and enterprizing ſpirit is now beginning to diſcover itſelf among the farmers; which, if tenderly cheriſhed and judiciouſly directed, cannot fail of producing important effects. In riding through large diſtricts of the pariſh, in the beginning of ſpring, it affords one much pleaſure to obſerve in almoſt every field the operations of a glowing and vigorous induſtry; draining of bogs, tearing up of bruſh wood, blowing of ſtones with powder, and the carrying them off the fields. Hence meadows that yielded from 30 to 40 ſtone per acre of miſerable bog hay, and pieces of ground, that produced nothing but ruſhes, briars, or other uſeleſs vegetables, are daily converted into the beſt arable land in the country. The people watch every opportunity that occurs of carrying home ſome lime, and are beginning to make experiments on their little farms, in the way of ſown graſſes and turnips. The youth learn all the new modes of huſbandry, and to be good plough men, at ſervice in the low country. The

* The late John M'Kenzie, Eſq. of Delvin.

Scotch plough only is employed, and hitherto clumſily made; but ſome even of the ſmall farmers are getting them neatly made, and pay from 30s. to 40s. for a plough. In ſhort, it is neither want of ſkill, nor enterpriſe, that chiefly retard the progreſs of agriculture here, but other cauſes, ſome of which it may be proper to mention.

Though there is a vaſt extent of ſtone walls reared in moſt parts of the pariſh, yet there are few or no *incloſures*, except thoſe about gentlemen's ſeats. The farms are all either quite open, or deſtitute of ſufficient fences; while cattle of every ſpecies are allowed to roam at large through the arable fields, from the time the corn crop is carried home, till the ſucceeding crop begins to riſe. A great many of the farms are too ſmall; being from 5 to 7 acres of arable ground. A farm of this ſize as effectually bars the poſſeſſor and one of his children from every other line of induſtry, as one of double or triple the extent. Hence the ſmall tenants are poor, except they are weavers; in which laſt caſe they live very comfortably. The want of lime and marle is another great diſadvantage. Lime cannot be had nearer than the port of Perth, which is 12 miles from the neareſt, but 25 from the remoteſt parts of the pariſh. Good marle is not leſs diſtant. Some reſource may be found at a future period from a great body of marle, on the borders of the pariſh of Auchtergaven, if the proprietor will gain and expoſe it to ſale. This diſadvantage with reſpect to the manures, is aggravated by the trouble and difficulty attending peat, the principal fuel in this country. Though peat be abundant enough, yet the caſting, winning, and carrying them home occupy the greateſt part of the months of June and July, the ſeaſon moſt convenient for bringing home lime and marle.

Theſe evils cannot be removed, nor even much alleviated, without great judgement and attention on the part of the landlords.

lords. One thing is obvious, from the ſituation of agriculture as already ſtated, that the tenants ought to have leaſes of 19 years indurance. It cannot be expected, upon the principles which uſually govern human conduct, that people will be at the trouble and expence of any conſiderable improvement, without ſome proſpect of reaping the fruits of their labour. To do the proprietors juſtice, they do not withhold leaſes with the oppreſſive view of keeping the tenant under a racked rent. On the contrary, they act upon humane and rational principles; inſtead of letting their lands by the abſurd mode of auction, or by inviting private offers under pretence of concealing them, they take care to inform themſelves of the true value of their lands, and the rent is determined in moſt caſes by the appreciation of perſons of knowledge and experience in theſe matters. When leaſes are withheld, it is with a view to let a number of contiguous farms become open at the ſame period, in order to put them upon a more advantageous plan of improvement, both with reſpect to the landlord and the tenant. —The enlarging, and, of conſequence, the uniting of farms, might ſet agriculture upon a more thriving and reſpectable footing; but, in this country, humanity forbids the attempt, till ſome reſources can be found out for the comfortable ſubſiſtance of the numerous occupiers of ſmall farms. Landlords are beginning to collect weavers and other handycraftsmen into ſmall villages, where they are accommodated with neat dwelling houſes, and each of them with an acre or two of land, to afford them the benefit of a milk cow and ſome other comforts of agriculture, without being too much hindered, by the labours of the field, from a vigorous application to their reſpective trades.

Every thing practicable ſhould be done in this pariſh, for procuring manure in a greater abundance. As nature has denied

nied it both lime and marle, the attention of the people ſhould be turned to other ſorts of manure. A pariſh aſſociation for encouraging the making of compoſts, by pointing out the propereſt ſubſtances, and granting premiums to ſuch individuals as combined them moſt judiciouſly, might be attended with much advantage. The grazings in the hills might be greatly improved in ſome places, by the draining of bogs, and in other places, by turning water upon dry declivities.

Many new houſes have been built, and old houſes allowed to go to ruin, for ſix or ſeven years paſt. Five farm houſes are two ſtories high, with ſlate roofs. One of the tenants pays L. 40, one L. 100, and another L. 105, of rent. A taſte for cleanlineſs, and even ſome degree of elegance, with reſpect to the articles of lodging, houſehold furniture and dreſs, is beginning to diſplay itſelf. Inſtead of mean dirty hovels, built with ſtones without cement, dwelling houſes are now built by good maſons with mortar, caſt on the outſide with lime, and neatly finiſhed within. Many young men appear at church and market dreſſed in Engliſh cloth and round hats, and the young women in printed cottons or linens. It is perhaps to be regretted that more attention is not paid to the woollen manufactories, as an article of domeſtic induſtry and œconomy.

A few etymologies ſhall conclude this memoir. *Murthly* (in Gaelic *Morhullich*) is compounded of the word *Mor*, ſignifying great, and *Tullich*, mount; *Findowie*, from *Foan* (declivity) and *Fuigh*, or *Duigh*, Divot; *Dalguis* from *Dail*, Haugh and *Guis*, fir: *Balnagaird*, from *Bail* (town) and *Kaird*, ſignifying handycraftsmen of any ſort; *Trochrie*, from *Treuchry*, meaning a narrow paſs or defile; and there is ſuch a paſs near this town. *Kinnaird*, from *Cucan*, Head, and *Ard*, high, a name peculiarly applicable to this very ſtriking

and

and romantic ſeat, where a ſtupendous rock almoſt overhangs the manſion houſe. Here there are a fountain, and the ruins of a chapel, both dedicated by antient ſuperſtition to St Laurence. *Dalmarnoch*, from *Dail* and *Marnoc* the name of another ſaint, whoſe burial place was *Kilmarnoc*. *Bran* (in Gaelic *Braigh bhuine*) *Braigh*, meaning high grounds, and *Bhuine*, ſtream, *i. e.* the ſtream from the mountains.

NUMBER XLI.

PARISH OF LUMPHANAN.

(PRESBYTERY OF KINCARDINE O'NIEL, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM SHAND.

Name, Extent, and Stipend.

THE name of the parish in Gaelic signifies it is said, the "bare little valley;" which might have been the case when it first received its name; but time has produced great changes here, in respect of fruitfulness. Almost in the middle of the parish stands the church. The length of the parish from S. to N. is about 6, in breadth from E. to W. 4 computed miles.—Hills surround the greatest part of the parish. The soil is deep and good in the low grounds, thin and sandy on the sides of the hills to the S.—The air is dry and healthy in general. Fevers are the most common distempers.—There are many excellent springs, at the foot of the hill, and in other parts; so that every village except one, is well supplied with water.—There is a considerable lake, called the loch of Auchloffen, nearly one mile long, and more than half as broad at the south end; and which produces pikes and eels in great plenty

plenty. Some large pikes 6 feet long, weighing about 25 lib. have been taken in it. It yields likewise some grass, as horse pipes, &c. Ducks, geese, and sometimes a few swans, frequent this loch, and afford good sport for gentlemen and others. In summer it is divided into 2 parts, and the passage for the water between them may be about 5 feet wide; the loch is frozen in winter, and may be travelled on. In its present state it has many inconveniences. It frequently overflows in summer, carries off the fuel, and hurts the corns growing near it; about it the frosts and mildews are severe, and the wild fowls destructive, especially in the night time. It has been proposed by the proprietors to drain off the water, and render the grounds arable; the greatest depth when sounded, did not exceed 6 feet. The rent, for the almost useless ground at present, might be considerable, and some marle perhaps got. Some years hence the plough may be seen going where the ugly and voracious pikes are now lying; and corns growing instead of almost useless weeds. The neighbouring towns would then be more healthy, and no depredations made on their crops.

Meal-mead and Craiglich are the most considerable hills; the latter is steep, and arises from the arable land about a mile. They are in general covered with heath, having some green vallies on the sides of the rivulet, and afford pasture to large flocks of sheep; turf and peat for fuel, and a few birds for game.

Population.—For about 20 years back the population has not varied much. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755, was 682 souls; the present number of inhabitants is 621. Males and females bear the same proportion as in other parishes; the births on an average are only 10 or 12 yearly; marriages 5 or 6. There are 44 farmers, 4 smiths, 2 weavers, 3 wrights, 8 shoemakers, 6 millers, 1 taylor, 3 students at the university

of

of Aberdeen, 2 merchants, 3 or 4 families of seceders, 2 Roman Catholics in the parish.

Productions.—The number of black cattle is 902, of horses 153, and of sheep 1907. About 200 bolls of meal, oats, and bear, may be annually sold out of the parish. The crops are potatoes, bear, oats, turnips, pease, some lint, but little artificial grass. No heritors reside here, and we are in the infancy of winter herding, though there is great occasion for it on many accounts. Several tenants keep bee-hives; a first swarm sells for about 20s. sterling; if the summer be favourable, 3 swarms may be looked for from each hive.——When killed, the best hives yield from 10 to 12 pints of excellent honey; for which, 3s. 4d. to 5s. per pint may be gotten. There is not one third of the land under culture. Some industrious tenants have ploughed several acres from the heath, one 15, and another about 14, acres. After ploughing it lies a year unsown; then they take several crops before it is allowed to rest. One man affirms that he had for the first crop from a small piece taken from the muir 8 returns, or 4 bolls from half a boll, which yielded 3 bolls of meal. There are apparently many ridges in the hills not now ploughed. The hills are very fit for wood, yet none of them are planted. Commonty, and the non-residence of heritors, are the causes of this great defect. The want of fire wood is every year more and more felt. Nay all the ash and plane trees, &c. on some estates are now cut down; as are likewise the allers that grow on the burns of Lumphanan, Findrach, and Pool bogg; so that there are remaining only a few trees in the tenants yards, and the people are obliged, with a great loss of time, and much expence, to purchase wood from the neighbouring parishes.

Advantages, and Disadvantages.——The advantages are an early soil, well filled and ripened crops. The bear, oats, meal &c.

&c. are very good and fetch high prices. Meal laſt ſummer ſold at Finzean's girnell at 17s. per boll of 9 ſtone. The north and ſouth roads, paſſing through the middle of the pariſh, give the farmers many and eaſy opportunities of falling in with the ſouth country dealers in cattle. The pariſh is well ſupplied with garden plants from Auchoor and Mill-town of Auchloſſen, where 3 gardeners reſide. It has likewiſe a good ſchoolmaſter, but his encouragement is ſmall, and the ſchool built in a very improper place. Many cattle are reared here, and the principal roads are not bad. On the other hand, the pariſh is no leſs than 24 meaſured miles from Aberdeen; has no lime nor marle, nor can the high grounds often get any advantage from watering; graſs is ſcarce, and few cattle can be kept in ſummer. The farmers muſt often ſell them to great diſadvantage when the labouring is finiſhed, put them to glens, or ſtarve them at home. The ſheep are often a prey to the foxes from the woods of Craigievar and Aboyne. The fuel is fetched from the diſtance of 2 computed miles, and on bye-roads where carts are drawn with danger and difficulty. Little is done by many from Whitſunday to the beginning of autumn but to caſt, dry, and lead peats. Some think it would be as cheap to bring coals from Aberdeen. The north and ſouth roads, too, are attended with ſome inconveniences from beggars and pilferers. The mill multures are heavy, the tenants affirm, that in multures, &c. they pay 1 boll in 12.

Language Rent, &c.—None of the pariſhioners ſpeak or underſtand Gaelic, though the names of moſt places are ſaid to be derived therefrom, as Auchloſſen, Auchoor, &c. The valued rent is L. 2082 : 6 : 8d. Scotch, and the real rent may be about L. 1000 ſterling. The ſtipend is L. 36 : 5s. including 20 merks for communion elements, with 23 ¼ bolls of meal

at 9 ſtone per boll, and 5 bolls of bear. Sir William Forbes of Craigivar, Bart. is patron. The church was built in 1762. The manſe in 1782. In the miniſter's garden are plenty of geen trees and low fruits, and the trees bear well. The ſituation is pleaſant, and ſo healthy, that there is a proverb, that no miniſter dies here. The glebe may be about 6 acres, but is ſtrangely and inconveniently divided; ſome of it lying above half a mile from the reſt.

There are 4 heritors, one of whom has two thirds of the pariſh. The number of poor on the roll at preſent is only 6. The weekly collections are about 10d. We have no other funds except a few pounds in the Kirk box. The years 1782 and 1783 obliged the miniſter and elders to give out L. 10, or L. 12 extraordinary; victual then was very ſcarce and dear. A neighbouring heritor, Mr. William Brebner, was then of great ſervice to his own, to this, and to other pariſhes. He imported, and brought home from Aberdeen with his own carts, oats, bear, &c. grinded them, and ſold the meal at moderate prices. Sir William Forbes likewiſe ordered his factor at Craigivar to diſtribute ſome meal among the poor in his lands, and did not exact all his rents. He likewiſe procured ſeed for his tenants, who ſuffered greatly. Many were much reduced that year *.

Ploughs,

* Prices of proviſions.—Oat meal ſells from L. 8 to L. 10 Scotch per boll, 9 ſtone; bear meal about L. 6.—beef and mutton 3d. per lb.—butter from 6d. to 8d. per lb. of 18 oz. to the lb. cheeſe 5s. per ſtone, ſame weight;—hens 6d; eggs 2d. per dozen;—ſeed corn from L. 9 to L. 10 Scotch; bread much the ſame; —oats with fodder, L. 10 to L. 14, do.—bear L. 10 to L. 16 do. peck and proof;—lambs 3s. 6d. to 5s.—year old ſheep 5s. to 6s.—ewes 3s. to 5s.—wedders 6s. to 10s—fed ſheep according to their weight and fatneſs;—calves 5s. to 20s.—year old black cattle 20s. to 40s.—2 years old do. L. 3 to L. 5. —riſing 4 year old, L. 5 to L. 7;—oxen L. 6 to L. 10;—cows L. 3 to L. 7.—A good many ſheep and black cattle are ſold every year.—Few horſes are reared, and thoſe ſmall.—They ſell from L. 6 to L. 12.—There is one yearly market for ſheep, where about 2000 ſheep are expoſed one year with another.

Ploughs, Farms, and Inclosures.—There are about 56 ploughs of land in the parish, but sometimes 2 or 3 are united, and laboured by one plough or 10 oxen, so that there are not above 44 ploughs yoked, those exceptedwho join and labour their small crofts in a few weeks. The ploughs in general consist of 8 or 10 oxen.—There is one farm held by 2 tenants at L. 50; others pay from L. 25 to L. 30; most of them L. 12 with 6 or 8 bolls of meal and 3 or 4 of bear.—Many of the farmers have carts, and some of the crofters.—The houses are now a little better than formerly, the new ones being built with good stones and mortar, and pinned with lime.—A few have chimneys and wooden floors, and are covered with heather.——The offices in general are yet mean. But as some heritors are now allowing payment to the tenant at his removal, for walls, the houses it is hoped will soon put on a better appearance. The way of managing farms is none of the best.—Lands rent at L. 1 per acre in-field, when let to crofters by the tenant, who pays little less for it himself, and yet he often labours the ground for his subtenants.

The first inclosures seem to have been at Auchinhove by the Duguids, who once were the greatest heritors in the parish.—The dykes there are 6 feet broad at bottom.—Some dykes with hedges were lately built at Camp-field. There are a few inclosures likewise at Findrack, but in bad order. The tenants

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A day-labourer's wages, 6d. per day, with diet;—a carpenter's, 8d;—taylor's 6d.—mason's 15d. to 20d.—A woman servant gets from 20s. to 25s. per half year.—Those who engage in harvest from L. 10 to L. 12 Scotch.—Men servants L. 2 to L. 3 sterling.—They are the same in summer, because they go south to dyking. In harvest from L. 15 to L. 18 Scotch.—A herd now gets L. 10 or L. 12 Scotch or more.—Those who draw the plough, L. 18 Scotch.—The wages, like the rents, have increased one third since 1772, and are still increasing.

are beginning to do ſomething in this way, but the ſheep are great enemies to them in winter *.

Miſcellaneous

* One or two ſeemingly druidical places of worſhip are known, alſo a pretty large ſtone without inſcriptions near Kinlocher. At the manſe there is a curious font ſtone, 2 feet diameter. A few old coins were found ſome years ago, when repairing the church-yard dykes, and a mortcloth bought with them. Very lately above L. 100 ſterling, all in Queen Anne's ſhillings were found by two herds in one of the dykes of the Gordon's fold near Auchhove. Their parents had taken one of theſe folds for graſs; and the boy and girl were taking down ſome ſtones to let their beaſts get in to feed, where they accidentally found the money. Tradition ſays, that it is only a part of 50,000 merks hid there in 1745, by one Malcolm, a ſervant belonging to Mr Duguid of Auchhove, who unfortunately joined in the rebellion, and that the reſt was ſecreted in a man's boot.—The unfaithful ſervant, after Culloden, returned home, and was ſeen going about the dykes as if he had loſt ſomething;—when examined, he ſaid it was a ſilver headed ſword that he was ſearching for.——The Pool Bogg near the manſe, conſiſts of 50 acres, now incloſed, and rented at about 10 guineas. About three fourths of the ground are arable. The burn of Lumphanan which runs through it, formerly, in the time of rain, when it roſe high, did great deſtruction, carrying off the earth, and covering the ground with ſand and ſmall ſtones; but theſe evils are now remedied. Near the middle of the bogg ſtands a fort, built chiefly of earth from the moat around it, not perpendicular, but contracting as it riſes; it appears round, but is really oval. The height is 12 yards. It meaſures 86½ yards in circumference at the top, and the area may ſow 6 or 7 pecks of oats. The moſt at the baſe is 23 yards wide. Without lies another ring 350 yards round. It is uncertain who built this fort; ſome aſcribe the work to Longueville who came over from France in Wallace's time; ſome to Wallace himſelf, and call it Gargunnock. Others give it a much earlier date. Before the invention of gunpowder it has been a place of ſtrength; and it often excites the curioſity of ſtrangers.

Macbeth's Cairn lies about a meaſured mile north from the kirk, on the brow of a hill, is 40 yards in circumference, and riſes pretty high in the middle. Farther up the hill are ſeveral ſmaller cairns. It is ſaid by ſome that Macbeth, flying from the ſouth, had but a few men with him when he reached Lumphanan; that he endeavoured to hide himſelf at a town called Cairn Baddy, but flying from hence went about a mile north, till M'Duff out-riding his company, came up with him at that place where the cairn now lies, killed him in ſingle combat, and brought back his head to his men.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The people are not expenſive in diet or clothes —The young folks begin to appear more gay on public occaſions.—All are punctual in attending public worſhip, and ſeem pretty well pleaſed with their condition. The farmers complain of graſſums, and ſhort leaſes, but eſpecially the want of ſervants, their high wages and little work. It is evident that the tenants here muſt take the burden of the work on themſelves, and pay every attention to their buſineſs, elſe they muſt go to ruin. It cannot be ſaid that any of them are making rich; few are laying by ſo much caſh as their ſervants. In winter they often can get little done for ſome months, on account of the ſtorms of rain and ſnow, and great froſts. During the long winter nights the men ſervants think they ſhould do nothing for their maſters advantage. Subtenants there know not how to employ themſelves ſo as to get bread.

The public roads are not bad, being kept in tolerable good order by the ſtatute labour; the people ſometimes grudge that they are called out, eſpecially when well advanced in life, 6 days every year, or that they muſt pay money.—Bridges are much needed, as the burns ſwell ſuddenly, and become almoſt impaſſable. Nor are they in much better condition often in winter froſts. Two great roads interſect one another very near the church, eaſtward.

NUMBER XLII.

PARISH OF GLENISLA.

(PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS, COUNTY OF FORFAR.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES DONALD.

Name, Extent, &c.

GLENISLA derives its name from its local situation, being placed in a glen through which the river Isla runs. — From the head of this parish to the foot, taking a straight line, it measures about 18 English miles, but if all the windings of the river are taken in, it measures precisely 25 miles and one furlong. Its breadth, at an average, will not exceed 2 miles.

The Isla, which takes its rise from Caan-Lochan, formerly a deer forest of the family of Airly, runs through the middle of the parish. This river abounds with trout of a tolerable size; there are also salmon to be found in it, though they are prevented from getting far up by a fall of water below the mill of Craig, measuring betwixt 70 and 80 feet perpendicular, called Reeky-Linn, from the smoke which constantly ascends from the water

ter. This fall makes a very grand appearance at all times, but more particularly when the river overflows its banks.

Soil, Climate, &c.—The soil is in general of a light nature, and full of stones. In the lower part of the parish, however, where improvements are carried on, it appears to be deep strong loam, producing good crops of corn and grass. In the upper part, lime stone is to be got in great abundance from three different quarries. But the expence of quarrying and burning prevents the inhabitants from reaping great benefit from it. Some of the more opulent of the tenants drive marle from the Loch of Kinnordy, about 9 miles distant, which manure turns out to very good account.

The air is very pure, and the people in general very healthy. The healthiness of the people, however, may be ascribed to their manner of living. They are not pent up in houses, nor employed in sedentary occupations like many others, but roam at large in the open air, tending flocks of sheep and cattle. Several instances of longevity are to be found in the parish; particularly one man in his 94th year, still vigorous and retaining all his faculties, another 82, and a third 76. During the summer months, it is very sultry, but frosts generally set in by the end of August, and the winters are commonly very severe.

The people, especially in the upper part of the parish, are late in beginning to sow, owing principally to the frosts which keep the ground long, particularly after a severe winter. It is often the latter end of March or beginning of April, before the seed-time is begun. This, of course, prevents the grain from ripening soon; so that it is frequently the middle, and often the end of November, before the crop is all got in.

The frost mists do much hurt here, particularly on the river side. They seem to manifest their noxious quality first on the potatoe stems. Some fields of barley have been rendered

almoſt uſeleſs by them. The barley takes a deadly whiteneſs after this happens, and the kernels when unhuſked, immediately after the froſt, are ſoft and watery, and in a ſhort time grow ſhrivilled and dry. Oats, when froſted, acquire in a few days a bluiſh caſt. Theſe froſts prevail here moſtly in the month of Auguſt.

Population.—On the 12th of July 1791, there were living in the pariſh 1018 ſouls; of whom 224 were under 10 years of age, 456 between 10 and 20, and 338 widowers and married —The return to Dr. Webſter in 1755 was 1852 ſouls; ſo that the population has decreaſed conſiderably ſince that period.

No exact regiſter of baptiſms and marriages has been kept here for many years paſt; ſo that from what records belong to the pariſh, little material can be learned. From theſe records it appears that for 9 years preceding 1792, there were 236 baptiſed, and 93 couples married.

The greater part of the inhabitants have ſmall farms, with a conſiderable extent of paſturage annexed to them. About 54 of them are ſmall proprietors or portioners, and a great part of theſe occupy their lands themſelves. There are juſt now in the pariſh 3 blackſmiths, 8 weavers, 7 taylors, and 4 wrights. What is remarkable, there is not a ſhoemaker in the pariſh. All the inhabitants are of the eſtabliſhed church excepting 8 Non-jurors, 5 Catholics, and 1 Burgher Seceder.

The general character of the people is, that they are humane, and when they form an attachment to a perſon, will exert their utmoſt efforts to ſerve him. They are not indeed ſo induſtrious as could be wiſhed. The ſummer months are moſtly ſpent in providing fuel and tending the flocks; while the winter months are moſtly conſumed in burning this fuel. With reſpect to their morals, they are punctual in attending on public worſhip,

worship, and as decent in their behaviour in other respects, as their neighbours around them.

Church and Poor.—The value of the living is L. 55 : 11 : 1 $\frac{4}{12}$ sterling. The glebe and garden may be worth about L. 3 sterling. The king is patron of this living. The manse and church are very old.

The number of poor who receive alms from the kirk-session is about nine. The yearly sum expended for their relief will not exceed L. 12 sterling. This sum is raised from the Sunday collections. What further support they stand in need of is supplied by charitable and well disposed persons.—The funds belonging to the poor do not exceed L. 40 sterling.—By some old records it appears, that in the year 1704, the Sunday collections did not exceed 3d. a week, now at an average they amount to 3s. 6d.——There are no travelling beggars belonging to the parish; but in the time of sheep shearing it is much infested with vagrants from adjacent parts of the country *.

* The price of barley and oats is generally regulated by the Dundee market. Indeed the grain produced in this district is not sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants. Oat meal generally sells at 15s. and barley meal at 10s, and 10s. 6d. per boll of 8 stones of 16 lb.—Beef, mutton, and pork, is no less than 3d. per lb. of 16 oz.—The price of a pig is 2s 6d.—of a hen 8d —of a duck 6d. and of a chicken 3d. Butter is sold at 6d. in summer, and when salted, at 8d. per lb. of 22 ounces.—The stone of cheese is generally 5s. but the price varies according to its richness and age. Ewe milk cheese is sometimes sold at 7s. per stone.

The wages of men-labourers are generally 1s. per day, from March to September, with maintenance. The women seldom hire by the day, except in the time of spinning wool, when they receive 3d. per day with maintenance.

The day-wages of a mason are 1s. 1d.—of a wright 1s.—and of a taylor 6d. with maintenance.

Farm-servants generally draw from L. 7 to L. 8 sterling *per annum*, with maintenance.—Women servants receive L. 3 sterling a year, along [illegible] bounties,

Rent and Produce.—There is but a very small part of the parish inclosed. Indeed one of the heritors, sufficiently aware of the advantage and propriety of improving ground covered with heath, has inclosed a good many acres of muir ground, adjacent to his house, with fir and birch trees, which presently appear to be in a very thriving state. Would his neighbours follow his example, the country would not wear the bleak aspect it presently does.—The best arable land lets at about 20s. per acre, but to this is annexed the privilege of hill pasturage. The rent of the parish may be between L. 600 and 700 sterling. This, however, is varying every year. The heritors, as has been mentioned, are 54 in number, of whom about 32 reside in the parish. It is impossible to ascertain the number of acres contained in it, the arable ground bears but an insignificant proportion to that which is covered with heath. The plough mostly used in the upper part of the parish is the old Scotch plough, generally drawn by 4, sometimes by 6 horses, yoked a breast of one another;—what is peculiar, the driver always travels backwards. This mode, no doubt, has been adopted, on account of the weakness and small size of the horses, which are mostly of the Highland breed.—In the lower part, the English plough is for the most part used, and is drawn by 2 horses. One man holds and drives.

The vegetable produce is bear and oats, no wheat is sown; turnips, and potatoes are raised in the lower part of the parish; in the higher part of it turnips are but now introduced, and indeed it is impossible this crop can turn out to advantage, while the inhabitants allow their sheep to feed promiscuously after

bounties, which in value may amount to 6s. or 7s. sterling. About 40 years ago, the wages of a man-servant did not exceed L. 1 : 6 : 8 sterling a year with maintenance.

after the corns are put into the barn-yards. With respect to animal productions, the country abounds in black cattle; these are generally of a small size, but very durable; the largest will not exceed the weight of 18 or 20 stones of 16 lb. The number in the parish at present amounts to about 1696. The sheep, which are generally kept in the hilly part, are but of a small size; some of the inhabitants, however, go yearly to the south of Scotland, where they purchase numbers of black faced sheep, which turn out with them to good advantage. The precise number of sheep cannot be ascertained. The country abounds with muir fowl, and several gentlemen keep shooting quarters, which they regularly attend during the season. Here are hares and foxes in abundance. Ptarmigans are also to be found at a place called Caaness, towards the head of the parish.

Miscellaneous Observations.——The roads are in very bad repair, and must continue in the same state till proper overseers are appointed to inspect them, and the road money of the parish appropriated to their repair. The bridges are only two in number (though the extent of water, from the head to the foot of the parish, is about 25 English miles.) Were a bridge built centrically between these two, which are 9 miles asunder, it would be a considerable advantage to the country at large, and free many individuals from inconveniencies they presently labour under. Indeed there are some funds for a bridge already, and subscriptions might be expected to complete the scheme, were there any public spirited person to set the work on foot.

Beside the parochial school, the salary of which is 100 merks, there is a school erected by the Society

for propagating Christian Knowledge at Folda. The teacher draws yearly from the Society L. 10 sterling. Both schools just now are in bad repair, and truly it is difficult to get these matters properly adjusted among such a number of heritors *.

* There are the remains of two castles, viz. the castle of Forter and the castle of Newtown. A great part of the walls of the former remain almost entire, but only the vestiges of the foundation of the latter are to be seen. Both belonged to the Ogilvies of Airly, and in 1641 were demolished by the Marquis of Argyle; an injury the family of Airly did not fail to resent.

NUMBER XLIII.

PARISH OF ALYTH.

(PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. COLIN SYMERS.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Alyth lies on the north side of Strathmore. It is about 12 miles long and 3 broad at an average; stretches from S. to N. towards the Grampian mountains, and is bounded by the parish of Meigle on the south, from which it is divided by the water of Isla,—by Ruthven and Airly on the east, from which it is likewise separated by the Isla in its course from the hills towards the S.

The parish is divided into two considerable districts by the hills of Alyth, Loyal and Barry. The southern district, which lies in the Strath, is about 4 miles long and 3 broad. The lower part along the water of Isla is extremely fertile, producing excellent crops of barley, oats, and wheat. The cultivation of grass, turnips, potatoes, and other parts of the new husbandry, is carried on with great success. Several of the proprietors have divided their estates into fields, inclosed with hedges

hedges and hedge-rows. The frequent inundations of the Isla, which sometimes rises suddenly in harvest to a great height, is often attended with great disappointment and loss to the husbandman. This was the case in 1789, and two or three instances more fatal have happened within these twenty years. These might serve as lessons to the tenants to drag their corns out of the water mark immediately when they are cut down, a practice too much neglected by them. Much of this mischief, arising from the present winding course of the Isla in its way through the valley, might be prevented by straightening its channel.

The tract of land towards the hills is equally fertile, and in most seasons produces heavy crops of corn and grass. Its fine exposure, lying opposite to the genial rays of the sun, is friendly to the quality of the grain, and its early ripening. The corns are seldom hurt by frosts, to which the low ground is more subject.—Crops of flax in the whole of this district are generally good, and the quantity sown has greatly increased. Three, and often four stones of flax, at the rate of 24 lib. avoirdupois to the stone, is no uncommon return after the peck of seed. There are three lint mills in this district, and all well employed. The farmers rear a considerable number of young cattle, and use turnips in this way more than in feeding cattle. They likewise rear a few horses, but not in sufficient numbers to serve themselves.

The farms are not too large, nor do they seem to be too high rented; none of them exceeding L. 140; and there are some small possessions, at L. 20 and L. 15. Good ground gives from 15s. to 21s. an acre. Marle is the manure commonly used, of which there is plenty, and of the best quality, at the distance of three or four miles. Considerable quantities of lime are brought from Dundee, the nearest sea port town. Its superior

rior quality, and the advanced price of marle, will ſoon make it more uſed.

The village of Alyth is ſituated in this diſtrict. Its name is of Gaelic extraction, and is expreſſive of its ſituation, being built on a flat near the foot of a hill. It was made a burgh of barony by a charter from James III. The whole of it belongs in ſuperiority or property to the Earl of Airly, who has a large and valuable eſtate in this part of the pariſh, which has been long in the poſſeſſion of that noble family. The ſituation of the village is healthy; it is well ſupplied with water, excellent ſprings are found on all ſides, and a ſmall river runs through the lower part of the town. Over it are two bridges, by which the inhabitants have eaſy intercourſe; manufactures of different kinds might be carried on here to great advantage. There is a weekly market in the village, tolerably well ſupplied with butcher meat, poultry, butter, cheeſe, &c. and ſeveral annual fairs for black cattle and ſheep are held here. The chief articles are yarn and brown linens, of which a great quantity is manufactured in the town, and diſtrict around it. The quantity of cloth ſtamped from the 1ſt November 1787, to the 1ſt November 1791, at an average, was 258,639 yards yearly, and the medium price L. 6939 : 10 : 3 $\frac{8}{12}$. This branch of trade, though lately much improved and enlarged, is far from being carried on to that extent it would admit, and well deſerves. Perhaps not one half of the yarn ſpun in this part of the country is manufactured in it. The diſtance from Dundee, (15 miles), where moſt of cloth is ſent, is compenſated by cheaper labour and living: the intercourſe is made eaſy by the turnpike road betwixt Dundee and Meigle, which will be ſoon finiſhed. And there is a plan in agitation for continuing this road from Meigle to Alyth, and erecting a bridge over the Iſla in that line, which it is much to be wiſhed may take place, as it would be a moſt eſſential benefit to the country.

The

The number of inhabitants in the village is almost doubled since 1774. At that time they amounted to 555; now they are increased to 1060. Several acres of ground were lately feued by the proprietor, on which a number of houses are built, and possessed chiefly by manufacturers. The land in the barony of Alyth near the village is let out in two or three acres, for the convenience of the inhabitants, and is rented from 30s. to 40s. the acre. The greatest disadvantage this part of the country labours under is want of fuel; the time spent in casting and winning peats, and the expence of bringing them home from a distance of 5 or 6 miles, are great inconveniencies to the husbandman and the manufacturer, who begin to find it more for their interest to use coals, though there are none to be had nearer than Dundee.

In surveying this district, it takes away much from the pleasure, to observe a large common (called the Muir of Alyth) of several hundred acres, a great part of which is capable of improvement, and might be made to raise corn and grass; the rest of it is well adapted for planting. As it is now under submission, it is to be hoped a division will soon take place.

On the other side of the hill of Alyth there is an open country of considerable extent, and capable of much improvement. The soil in a great part of it is good, and the crops far from being deficient. When the ground is more cultivated, and drained where it is wet, there will be less reason to complain of the lateness of the crops; which cannot be so much owing to difference of climate, as to the advanced state of agriculture. Till lately, the old mode of farming was followed in all this district, viz. taking crops of oats and bear alternately from the in-field, and after three successive crops of oats from the out-field, letting it remain as long in ley. But now a better system of agriculture is introduced, and a spirit of industry promoted among the tenants. In a few years hence, when the

thriving

thriving plantations are farther advanced, the farms properly divided and inclofed, and a rotation of crops obferved according to the leafes lately granted, the value of the property, and the appearance of this part of the country will be much increafed and improved.—— Beyond the hill of Bamff is the foreft of Alyth, a large tract of heath ground, confifting of more than 6000 acres, which chiefly belonged to four proprietors who poffeffed it in common; but is now divided among them. The foreft, which is fkirted on the W. with arable ground, affords pafture for a confiderable number of fheep and black cattle. The fheep are either of the Linton breed, or the fmall white faced kind raifed in this part of the country. An excellent breed of wedders, brought from Linton annually when a year old, thrive well. They are commonly fold when four years old at 13s. or 14s. the head. Their wool is coarfe; indeed none of the fheep here are remarkable for fine wool.—In the foreft are very extenfive moffes, which fupply the country around with fuel. It abounds in game, efpecially muirfowl, and is much frequented in the fhooting feafon. At the extremity of the parifh there is a beautiful little country, furrounded with hills, and interfected by the black water or Ericht, which in fummer has a delightful appearance. That part of it connected with this parifh called the Blacklunnans lies in the county of Angus.

Rent and Population.—The valued rent of the parifh is L. 8233 : 17 : 4 Scotch. There are 5 or 6 heritors who have confiderable eftates, befides feveral fmaller proprietors, and a number of feuars. The family of Bamff, reprefented by Sir William Ramfay, Bart. have charters of the eftate they now poffefs, fince the reign of King Alexander II. A. D. 1232. Three of the confiderable heritors refide part of the year in the parifh, and moft of the fmaller ones.

The number of inhabitants in the whole pariſh is 2723; of whom 1060 are in the village, 943 in the lower diſtrict, and 720 in the upper diſtrict. The population of the pariſh is increaſed ſince the returns made to Dr. Webſter, which were 2689. The increaſe is wholly in the village. The numbers in the country part of the pariſh having diminiſhed more than 200 in the laſt 15 years. For five years preceding 1792, there were 413 individuals, 208 males and 205 females, baptized, and 123 couples married; and for four preceding 1791, 196 were buried.

Eccleſiaſtical State and Schools.—The church is an old Gothic ſtructure; it has been frequently repaired, and is in tolerable good order. In times of Epiſcopacy it was a prebendary belonging to the biſhop of Dunkeld.——The ſtipend of Alyth is 6 chalders, 11 bolls, 2 firlots, 1 peck, 1 lippie and a half victual, two thirds meal and one third bear, L. 39 : 17 : $4\frac{6}{12}$ in money, and about L. 1 : 10 of ſmall tythes. The glebe conſiſts of ſix acres of good land.—The manſe was lately repaired. The heritors have on all occaſions been ready to grant every thing neceſſary to accommodate the miniſter. The crown and the family of Airly claim the patronage.

Alyth is an excellent ſtation for a ſchoolmaſter, being in the centre of a populous pariſh. The heritors have augmented the ſalary to 200 merks Scotch, and built a ſchool and ſchoolmaſter's houſe on a larger ſcale than uſual. The ſalary, and perquiſites of the ſeſſion clerk's office, will amount to L. 9— The ſchoolmaſter has likewiſe the intereſt of L. 40 ſterling, bequeathed by the late incumbent Mr. Robertſon for the education of a few children of his name. The ſchool dues have been lately increaſed and regulated; and, by the favour of the heritors, the ſchoolmaſter enjoys ſome very conſiderable advantages.

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The Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge have ſtationed one of their ſchoolmaſters at Drumfork in Blacklunnans. The preſent ſchoolmaſter, who is an old man, has retired with a ſalary of L. 7 ſterling; his ſon who is appointed aſſiſtant has L. 9 ſterling yearly. This inſtitution is attended with ſingular advantage to that remote corner of the pariſh. Young people are taught reading, writing and arithmetic, and early inſtructed in the fundamental principles of religion. The number of ſcholars is uſually from 60 to 80.

Poor.—The poor in this pariſh are not ſo numerous as formerly, and are always well ſupplied.—The heritors and ſeſſion meet every half year, when a liſt of poor is taken, and their particular circumſtances being duely conſidered, a ſuitable weekly penſion is ſettled on each of them.——The funds for their ſupport are the weekly collections, the intereſt of L. 161 ſterling, at L. 4½ *per cent.* and the rent of ſome galleries in the church. As theſe do not amount to one half of the ſum required, the pariſh is aſſeſſed to make up what is deficient; the heritors in the proportion of their valued rent pay one half of the aſſeſſment, the other half is paid by the tenants.

The inhabitants are ſober and induſtrious, and regular attendants on public worſhip: With the improvement of their outward condition, they are more liberal and humane in their ſentiments and diſpoſitions. The fruits of induſtry appear in their dreſs and manner of living. Mean cottages are exchanged for more comfortable habitations, and thoſe who before found it difficult, with all their labour, to procure the neceſſaries of life, now enjoy many of its comforts and conveniences.

Comparative View of the state of the funds for the support of the poor, and the number of paupers for fifteen years, from the 1st of Januray 1776, when this scheme commenced in the parish of Alyth, dividing the time into three periods.

	N° of poor.	Weekly pension.			Session's sum.			Assessment.		
		L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
Medium of the first 5 years,	$44\frac{3}{10}$	1	14	$1\frac{1}{10}$	37	14	3	56	19	$9\frac{4}{5}$
Do. of the second 5 years,	$37\frac{1}{2}$	1	11	$2\frac{1}{5}$	33	4	$3\frac{2}{5}$	53	10	$3\frac{2}{5}$
Do. of the third 5 years,	$27\frac{1}{2}$	1	4	$8\frac{2}{5}$	31	7	$5\frac{1}{10}$	37	12	$5\frac{3}{5}$
Total	$109\frac{3}{10}$	4	9	$11\frac{7}{10}$	102	5	$11\frac{1}{2}$	148	2	$6\frac{4}{5}$
Annual medium nearly,	$36\frac{1}{2}$	1	10	0	34	2	0	39	7	6

From this state it appears that the number of poor is decreasing, and the expence diminishing. This is to be ascribed to the improving state of the parish, and an increasing spirit of industry among the people. The linen manufacture affords employment for old and young of both sexes, and the price of labour is greatly advanced. None are admitted on the poor's roll who have not been three years at least in the parish, before they fell into necessitous circumstances, and they sign a bond giving the kirk-session a right to the whole or as much of their effects at their death, as will reimburse the parish for money they received from the poor's funds. The session reserve the half of the weekly collections, which they give occasionally to poor families and individuals not on the roll. Begging is not allowed in the parish.

Miscellaneous

* Servants wages have increased at least one third since 1773. Men servants hired at that time for 5 or 6 guineas, are now with difficulty engaged at

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Mount Blair is the moſt conſiderable hill in every reſpect in this pariſh. It is a very conſpicuous point of land. The baſe is not leſs than five miles in circumference; its exact altitude is not aſcertained. It affords good paſture for a great number of ſheep, and abounds in lime ſtone. About three miles S. from mount Blair, on the weſt ſide of the foreſt of Alyth is the hill of Kingſeat, about 1179 feet high above the level of the ſea. The ſituation is very romantic, for the water of Ericht runs at its foot on the weſt, and the ſide of the hill for a conſiderable way up is covered with a beautiful natural wood *.

The

at 8 or 9. The wages of women ſervants have riſen in proportion, from L. 2 to L. 3.—And L. 3 : 10 ſterling. The prices of butcher meat are nearly doubled in that period. Beef and mutton in the cheaper ſeaſon are ſeldom below 3d. the pound, and very often at 4d. Poultry and eggs are equally advanced in price.

* Barty-hill is about a mile in circumference at the baſe, and 676 feet high. It is divided from the hill of Loyal by a hollow, commonly called a Glack. The hill is of a circular or oval form. On the ſummit there is an area about 60 yards long and 24 broad, ſurrounded with a mound of earth, at leaſt 7 feet high, and 10 broad at the top. On this mountain are the remains of a rampart built of muir ſtones uncemented. And on the outſide of the rampart there is a hollow about 50 yards in circumference, which ſeems to have been intended for a baſon. The whole area within the rampart is in circumference about 168 yards. There is no veſtige of an edifice to be traced on it. On the weſt and north borders of the area, are ſeen the marks of ſomething like huts built of dry ſtones, which have ſerved to ſhelter the beſieged from the weapons of the aſſailants, and the inclemency of the air. The N. and W. ſides of the hill are very ſteep and almoſt inacceſſible. On the S. and E. where the declivity is more gentle, there is a broad and deep foſſe, over which at the S. extremity is a narrow bridge, built of unpoliſhed ſtones and vitrified. The entrance to the fort on the N. E. ſide has been well ſecured by a bulwark of ſtone. It evidently appears to have been deſigned for

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The rivers Iſla and Ericht, mentioned before, have their ſources within a few miles of each other in the Grampian mountains, are well ſtored with trout of different kinds; and ſome ſeaſons a conſiderable quantity of ſalmon are found in them.—The burn of Alyth originates among the moſſes in the upper part of the pariſh; it is ſoon increaſed by the addition of ſome ſmall ſtreams. Beſides the advantage of it to the village through part of which it runs, there are four corn and two lint mills on it, tolerably well ſupplied with water in all ſeaſons.

NUMBER

a temporary retreat in time of war, and well adapted for that purpoſe; as it muſt in antient times have been reckoned almoſt impregnable. The account handed down that Bary-hill was the place where was confined Queen Vanora or Guineva, the wife of the Britiſh king Arthur, who was taken priſoner in a battle between the forces of that monarch and thoſe of the Scots and Picts, has ſo much the air of fiction, that it hardly deſerves any credit.

In a ploughed field, on the S. ſide of Loyal, an artificial cavity has been lately diſcovered. It is in the form of a ditch, about ſix feet deep, and four broad, faced up on both ſides with ſtone, and covered with large broad ſtones on the top. The tenant who occupies the ground uncovered part of it which he found full of aſhes. Whether theſe are the aſhes of ſacrifices offered by our anceſtors to their deities, or of thoſe warriors who may have fallen in the defence or attack of the fortification on Barry-hill, to which it is contiguous, is matter of conjecture. The extremities of this cavern have not yet been explored.

On the N. ſide of the hill of Alyth is the farm of Bahwhyme, which was the living of a church-man before the reformation. It was exchanged for the lands of St. Ninians in the lower part of the pariſh, which belonged to a laic. The approbation of the Pope, and his charter of confirmation were thought neceſſary to give validity to the exchange of a mailing which within theſe few years did not produce above 100 Scotch in yearly rent. A ſtrong proof of the very great influence his Holineſs had at that time in the diſpoſal of church benefices.

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF OLD CUMNOCK.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF AIR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AIR.)

By the Rev. THOMAS MILLER, D. D.

Soil, Climate, &c.

THE parish of Old Cumnock, from which that of New Cumnock was disjoined early in this century is of an oblong figure, partly flat, and partly hilly.—The soil in general is clayey, and at the bottom, a strong till. Part of it mossy; all the holms are of a light dry soil, formed of sand and gravel.—The air in general, as through all this higher part of the country, is moist, but not unhealthy, as may be collected from the number of aged persons, and from there being no prevalent distempers. An aversion to inoculation prevails here, and has not yet been removed by all the pains made use of; in consequence of this the small-pox occasionally makes havock among the children. But this must gradually lessen, as inoculation gains ground, though slowly, every year.

We

We have ſeveral mineral ſprings, chiefly chalybeate, and many rivulets, all running into the water of Luggar, a ſtream which empties itſelf into the river of Air near Barſkimming.——This ſtream abounds in trout, and ſome eels are found in it. On the confines of the pariſh, are three lochs or lakes, which may cover in all about 100 acres of land. Their depth is unknown, and they communicate each other. The water of the eaſtern one runs into Aith, while the weſtern loch runs into the water of Luggar. The fiſh in theſe lochs are pike and eel.

Hills and Minerals.—The hills, (for the pariſh has no mountains), though partly covered with heath, are chiefly green, and abounding in a coarſe ſpecies of graſs called ſprit. There are ſeveral volcanic appearances in them, on which are found ſtones of the Baſaltic ſpecies; alſo a few figured ſtones; and in the beds of the rivulets, petrifactions of ſhells and fiſh are thrown up from the ſtrata. Theſe are alſo found in an extenſive lime quarry, belonging to the Earl of Dumfries, and one of its upper beds abounds with a ſpecies of coral. The lamina of lime ſtone in this quarry are of different qualities, and the lime ſtone in ſome places, being mixed with ſhells and ſpar, takes a very fine poliſh, and would make a pretty enough blue marble. Through this quarry, there runs a ſmall vein of lead ore. This upon a late trial, being dreſſed and ſmelted at the works of Wanlockhead, was found to produce 65 lb. of lead from 100 cwt of ore.——Free ſtone abounds in different parts of the pariſh, and particularly in the vicinity of the village. The quarries are of eaſy acceſs, and ſupply materials of the beſt kind for building. Many houſes have been rebuilt, and a good many new houſes have been lately erected from theſe quarries, in the village and vicinity. Coal is ſtill more plentiful. A conſiderable part of the pariſh is ſuppoſed to ſtand upon it. One of mines has been worked for more than 30 or 40 years.

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And there are other mines now opening in the immediate neighbourhood of the village. The consumpt, though pretty general, is however inconsiderable. What is used by the villagers and round the country excepted, it is principally consumed in burning lime stone. Of this, as above said, there is an inexhaustable quantity in the parish. The present price of coals is as nearly as can be guessed, 2s. 6d. per ton. The lime in shells 2½d. per bushel, five of which are equal to eight Winchester bolls. And the lime stone, unburnt, 1s. 8d. and 2s. per ton. All at the coal hills, lime post and kilns; consequently exclusive of the expence of leading. The Earl of Dumfries has also in this parish a blind coal, which he attempted to export to Ireland. But the expence of a land carriage of about 16 miles to the port of Air, obliged him for the time to relinquish the design.

Statistical Table.

Length in English miles nearly - -	10	——In the country part of the parish -	845
Breadth -	2	Of the former, males	374
Population, *anno* 1755	1336	——— Females	413
Ditto *anno* 1765	1305	Of the latter, males	400
In the village -	580	——— Females	445
In the country -	725	Males in all -	774
Ditto 1791 1792 -	1632	Females -	858
Average of births for 5 years preceeding 1792	41	Under 10 -	410
Average of males	22	Between 10 and 20 -	318
——— of females -	19	Between 20 and 50 -	601
Deaths, ditto -	16	Between 50 and 70 -	243
Marriages, ditto -	11	Between 70 and 80 -	45
Inhabitants in village and environs -	787	Between 80 and 90 -	14
		Between 90 and 100 -	1
		Houses inhabited -	282

New ditto and rebuilt in 10 years - -	80
Families supposed	327
Married persons -	260
Widowers - -	19
Widows - - -	80
Children at an average each marriage -	4
Of the established church	1332
Seceders - -	300
Twins in 10 years, of which three in 1790	4
Proprietors residing	4
——— non residing	2
Valued rent Sc. L. 3784:17:8	
Supposed real rent nearly (sterling) -	L. 3000
Number of acres supposed to amount to	10,000
Wheel carriages -	5
Carts, mostly one horse used - -	150
Horses - - -	220
Cattle old and young nearly - - -	1000
Scores of sheep, about	100
Horses, over head, may be valued each at	L. 12
Cattle each at -	L. 4
Sheep per score of 21	L. 10
Clergymen - -	1
Established schoolmaster	1
Surgeons - -	2
Shopkeepers - -	10
Inkeepers and stablers	4
Carpenters - -	9
Cart and mill wrights	3
Coopers - -	3
Masons - -	12
Smiths - -	9
Weavers beside apprentices - -	28
Shoemakers - -	33
Taylors - -	15
Stocking weavers -	7
Waukers - -	2
Tanner - -	1
Gardener - -	1
Millers - -	3
Carriers - -	5
Carters for coal and meal	8
Day labourers -	35
Skin and wool dealers	2
Chelsea pensioners -	4
Lint dressers - -	3
Butchers - -	3
Bakers - -	2
Colliers and coal heavers	18
Male servants, domestic and farm - -	44
Female do. do. -	72
Average number of poor	23
Capital of their funds	L. 410
Annual expenditure	L. 50
Schoolmaster's salary about - -	L. 12

Average number of ſcholars - - 40
Of which taught Latin 11
His fees for
——— Engliſh, *per annum* - - 8s.
Writing do. - - 10s.
Arithmetic do. - 12s.
Latin, &c. do. - 16s.
Wages of
——— Farm ſervants from L. 7 to L. 10 *per annum*
Women do. from L. 2 to L. 4
A man for harveſt 25s.
A woman for do. - 18s.
Domeſtic ſervants get nearly the ſame as farm ſervants
A day labourer without meat 10d. to 15d.
A maſon do. 1s. 10d.
A carpenter do. 1s. 2d.
A taylor with maintenance 6d.
Prices of
———Beef from 4½d. to 6d. per lb. of 24 oz.
———Mutton, from 4d. to 5d. do.
———Veal, 4d. per do.
———Lamb, 5d. per do.
Pork per ſtone 5s.
A fowl from 8d. to 1s.
Eggs per dozen from 3d. to 4½d.
Butter and cheeſe 16s. per ſtone
Common cheeſe, from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. and 5s. per ſtone
Sweet milk do. from 6s. to 8s. per ſtone
Meal at an average 11d. and 11½d. per peck
Looms employed for muſlins and cottons - 39
For woolen - 35
Total 74
6000 pair ſhoes and 100 pair boots manufactored *per annum*.

The increaſe of 327 ſince *anno* 1765 is the more remarkable, becauſe, if the numerous ſmall farms now under graſs, and let only from year to year, were let upon leaſes of 19 years, this circumſtance would make a very conſiderable addition to the number of ſouls, proportionably heighten the general population, and ſhew how much, as with reaſon has been ſup-

posed, it is upon the increase.——The lists of births, deaths and marriages, in the table, are taken from the parish registers, which, though kept with care, cannot be depended upon; owing to the obstinacy and ignorance of the people, and their aversion to have the births and deaths in their families duely inserted. The general average of births is supposed to amount to 51 annually, which is as 1 to 32 of the whole population. As to the average of deaths, for the reason above given, this cannot be ascertained, nor can the incumbent obtain means of ascertaining them with any accuracy. Of the twin births mentioned in the table, three happened anno 1790 when there was an uncommon number of such births in this, and in other countries.—A fact remarked at the time, but never attempted to be accounted for. The people, particularly those in the manufacturing line, and women servants, emigrate to Glasgow, Paisley, and Kilmarnock. And of late some of them have gone to Catrin and Muirkirk. But these emigrants have not materially affected the general population, to which the Earl of Dumfries, by the number of labourers he employs, gives all imaginable encouragement *.

Produce, &c.—The greater part of Lord Dumfries's lands, which form the bulk of this parish, are presently out of leases, and let from year to year in grass. But if the arable ground was

* There are no remarkable plants. But considerable plantations of Scotch fir, larix, elm, beech and plane trees; the natural woods consist mostly of birch and oak. The ash, mountain ash, aller, and the bird cherry abound also, but few of any size; the natural woods and plantations cover at least 400 acres. And it is said that Lord Dumfries draws *communibus annis*, about L. 200 by the sale of wood, which he replaces by very extensive new plantations. For he must have drawn hedges and ditches to the extent of about 40 miles, and stone dykes to half that length, since he came into possession of that estate.

was under culutre, notwithſtanding the ſlovenly mode of agriculture too generally followed, it is apprehended the pariſh could not only ſupply itſelf with proviſions, which for the moſt part it is ſuppoſed to do at preſent, but might furniſh conſiderable quantities of meal, as it now does, of butter and cheeſe, and occaſionally ſome barley (big), to the great works of Muirkirk and Catrin, both which are in its neighbourhood; the former at 10, and the latter at 5 miles diſtance. In moſt years the inhabitants bring meal from Dumfries-ſhire, and pot barley from Lothian. Part is conſumed in the pariſh, and part is carried to the above mentioned works at Catrin and Muirkirk. Flax was of late only cultivated in this pariſh, and there are now lint mills all over the country. Its culture in conſequence was increaſing, but has of late been checked by the prevalent taſte for, and uſe of cottons. Few graſs ſeeds are ſown, except by the gentlemen who have the property and reſide in the pariſh, who may have a few hundred acres under ſown graſs.—For the reaſon already mentioned, the bulk of arable land is under paſture. Peas and oats are ſown in March and April, and big in May, and reaped in September and October. The crop moſt attended to is potatoes, of which the people all over the country make great uſe. There are varieties of marble and clays. One porcelain, ochre, &c. as reported from an actual ſurvey lately made. The wetneſs of the climate is one of the chief diſadvantages.—The diſtance from markets is now happily removed by the works of Muirkirk and Catrin; the influence of which on this country in general, the pariſh ſhares in *.

Eccleſiaſtical

* As Airſhire formed a part of the antient Gallovidia, throughout which the Gaelic was univerſally ſpoken, it may be expected that traces of it ſhould be found here; and theſe are yet found in the names of many of the farms. As *Auchingibartte*, *Mellzeoch*, *Barlonachan* &c. all which are ſuppoſed to be of Gaelic original.

Ecclesiastical State, and Poor.—The patronage of the parish is in the Earl of Dumfries. The value of the living including the glebe does not amount to L. 100.—The church was built in 1754, and the manse about 1750. The heritors are 6 in number, of the whom 4 reside in the parish.

The poor are supported in part from the interest of the capital belonging to them, and partly from the Sundays contributions, which are greatly aided by the liberality of the family of Dumfries, who regularly attend divine service, and are yet more liberal in their private charities to poor house-keepers. Of these an obscure and sequestered individual could speak, did he not know, that there are still those who "do good by "stealth and blush to find it fame." There is also here a charitable fund established about three years ago, under the name of the "Cumnock Social Depositary," which already amounts to L. 170, and which promises to increase and to be of proportional service to the sick labourer, manufacturer, &c. who become members of it. Institutions of this kind are gaining ground; and if encouraged, as they ought to be by landed interest, and carefully managed, must prove the means of lessening the parochial poor, and preventing the introduction of a poor's rate, of which the English so justly complain *.

Miscellaneous

* There is no regular market; but the prices of the articles generally slaughtered in their several seasons, and sold here, are as stated in the tables. It should only further be observed, that almost every kind of provisions, meal excepted, is doubled at least in its price within 15 or 20 years past. The wages for servants, as will be seen from the table, have also greatly risen. And their condition is certainly preferable to that of the day-labourer, who even with his advanced wages, and with the advantage of getting coal at a moderate rate, (at the rate of a cart containing 900 cwt weight for 2s. 2d). usually brings up his family in a very poor manner. His earnings are more abridged, in consequence of piece work being little known, though creeping in; which, with increasing industry, will enable the day-labourer to afford better fare to himself and family than they taste of. His work in general, of consequence, seems proportion-

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In the pariſh lies the village of Cumnock at the confluence of the ſtream of Gliſnock, and the water of Luggar It gives the title of baron to the family of Dumfries.—The great roads from Air to Dumfries, from Air by Muirkirk to Edinburgh, from Glaſgow by Galſton, and Sorn to Dumfries, and from Glaſgow by Kilmarnock to Dumfries, paſs through this village. It is diſtant from Edinburgh 58, from Glaſgow 36, from Dumfries 45, from Air 16, and from Kilmarnock 16 miles. Beſides the advantage of the public roads, the pariſh is greatly benefited by many croſs roads, running in different directions, to the extent of ten or twelve miles, which the Earl of Dumfries has made at his own private expence for the conveniency of his coal, lime, &c. and while they ſerve theſe works they greatly benefit the pariſh and country in general *.

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proportionally ſmall to thoſe acquainted with Engliſh labour, or even with that of the Lothians or Berwickſhire.

* On the lands of Borland are the veſtiges of a chapel or religious houſe; and the farm is, to this day, named *chapel-houſe*. Theſe lands were originally in a family of the name of Hamilton, from whom they paſſed by marriage into the Montgomerys, a branch of the Coylsfield family; and having paſſed through different purchaſers are now the property of the Earl of Dumfries.

In the vicinity of the village of Cumnock are the remains of a moat, where, as tradition ſays, the baron courts were held of old. It is almoſt entirely ſurrounded by the Luggar; and as its banks are ſteep and completely wooded there, the whole forms a very beautiful and pictureſque ſcenery. The caſtle of Terrenzean lies alſo in this pariſh. It is now in ruins; has ſtood on an elevated bank above the Luggar, in a beautiful ſituation; was probably the manſion that belonged to the barony of Terrenzean, which ſucceſſively paſſed from a branch of the Crawfords to the Boyds. Upon their forfeiture it fell to the Crown, who having ſucceſſively made grants of it to different proprietors, it came at laſt into the family of Lowdon, from whom it was purchaſed by the Earl of Dumfries, whoſe property it now is. From this barony, the preſent counteſs of Lowdon is Barroneſs Terrenzean.

The people in general are above the middle size.—The manufactures in the village are weaving, shoemaking, tanning, dying &c. The manufacturers and tenantry in general have little or no stock worth mentioning; they are in consequence moderate in their expences, strangers to luxury, but with the country in general, acquiring a taste for dress, which, with other slight symptoms of progress in civilization, will probably in time be an incitement to their becoming more industrious. At present the great body that make up the inhabitants of the parish may be said to enjoy freedom to work or to be idle; strangers in general to intemperance, their living is chiefly supplied by the dairy; the manufacturers excepted, who with a few others, may be said to be better acquainted with a meat diet and with the use of beer; which it were to be wished, could be substituted for the prevalent use of spirituous liquors. Education is little valued. And next to the occupations peculiar to their several lines of life, their leading object, is to converse and dispute about religious subjects and church government, concerning which there is a considerable diversity of opinion amongst them. When time shall have softened down the keenness and pertinacity generated by this diversity of religious opinions,—when it shall have rendered them tolerant and forbearing towards those they differ from, there will be wanting only a general spirit of industry to meliorate their condition, and to furnish them with the real and solid comforts of life.

NUMBER

NUMBER XLV.

PARISH OF TARBAT.

(PRESBYTERY OF TAIN, SYNOD OF ROSS.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE BALFOUR.

Situation, Name, and Extent.

THE whole of the parish of Tarbat belonged formerly to the county of Ross; but, in the year 1693, Cromarty having been erected into a separate jurisdiction, and the property of the Earl of Cromarty in different parishes being transferred to the erected county, the barony of Tarbat, as a part of his estate, was included in that arrangement; and the parish is now almost equally divided between the shires of Ross and Cromarty. —It is situated at the eastern extremity of the country, with the sea on every side, except on the W. and S. W. where it is bounded by the parish of Fearn. On the S. and S. E. it has the Moray Firth.—At the E. and N. E. another branch of the sea breaks in betwixt Ross and Sutherland, and bounds this parish on the N.———The sea, after passing Tarbat-Ness, turns in to the land, and forms a capacious bay, at the S. E. corner of which lies the harbour of Portmaholmack. Imme-

dately above the harbour, the land rises to a considerable height, extends eastward into the sea 3 miles in length, and is not more than half a mile in breadth at the neck which joins the head-land to the body of the parish.——From these local circumstances the parish has its name.—Tarbat, being a Gaelic word, expressive of the peninsular situation of the place, and its having the appearance, when viewed at a distance, of a body stretched out in the sea and nearly surrounded by it. *Tar* signifying a Belly or Prominence, and *Bait*, drowned or immersed in water.——The parish is in length 7½ miles; in breadth it does not in any part exceed 4½ miles; in circumference it is 19¾ miles, and of that measurement 15 miles belong to the sea coast.

Surface, Soil, &c.—There are no high mountains or high hills in the parish. Geanies has the most elevated situation of any place belonging to it. There, a rocky precipice to the S. rises more than 20 feet above the level of the sea, and the fields on the N. and N. W. descend with a considerable declivity, a degree of which continues all the way to the north shore, though in most parts so gradual as to be scarce perceptible. There are in some other parts, a few rising grounds, which have a similar effect, but, in general, the fields are nearly level, or have no inequality but what is rather useful than otherwise.—There is a variety of soil; some of a loamy quality; some light, with a mixture of sand, or lying upon it; and a part of it, deep, with a bottom of hard gravel. There are no lakes or rivers in the parish, but there are a number of small lochs or natural ponds, which become dry in summer; and fresh water springs are to be found in every corner, particularly in parts near the sea. One of them at Portmaholmack is remarkable for the lightness of its water. At a short distance is another, within flood-mark, which discharges the salt water at ebb, and becomes

then

then free of any brackiſh taſte. It gives the colour of iron to the ſtones around it, and from this, and ſome other properties, is ſuppoſed to paſs through an iron ore. There are different other mineral ſprings in the pariſh, having the ſame qualities.——Small quantities of ſalt are found in the ſummer months, concreted by the heat of the ſun, from water left by high tides, in hollow parts among the rocks. The ſituation of the pariſh, in an open part of the country, and lying on the ſea, gives it a moſt extenſive proſpect. There are particular ſtations from which may be ſeen a part of eight counties, with a long range of coaſt, from Cullen to Fort-George, on the S. E. and S. and from Dunbeath and the Ord of Caithneſs, to the Doun of Creech in Sutherland, on the north.

There are two public roads in the pariſh running parallel. The one leads ſtraight from Tarbat-Neſs to the ferry of Cromarty, and is called the rock-head road, from its being carried along the top of a bank, riſing above the ſea, and rocky in ſome parts. The other road paſſes by the church, through the middle of the pariſh, and leads to the ferry of Invergordon. There are croſs roads alſo, one of which leads to Tain, the head burgh of the county, where a weekly market is held, to which the inhabitants reſort. In this and every pariſh throughout the country, the roads are made moſt convenient for travellers, from the particular attention given to that branch of police. The work has hitherto been performed by ſtatute labour, and the people have been regularly called upon, for repairing the roads already made, or making new ones, where found neceſſary. But a plan has lately been propoſed, and approved, to have the ſtatute labour commuted, it being left optional to pay a certain rate of money, or to perform the ſervice in perſon, in terms of the ſtatute.

Meaſurement, Manure, Natural Productions, &c.—There is no general map of the pariſh, but, according to ſeparate plans made of the different eſtates, it contains 5081 acres; of which, 2998 are arable, 66 out-field, 643 paſture, 1135 muir, 82 moſs, and 166 planted.——The muir ground, which bears ſo great a proportion to the arable, notwithſtanding the appearance of poverty in its preſent neglected ſtate, might, by incloſing, mixing the different ſoils by trenching, and laying on lime, be turned into good arable ground, and brought to yield profitable crops; of this, there is ſufficient proof from what is done by the cottars in thoſe ſpots on which they ſit down; and an experiment on a larger ſcale has been made lately, and with ſucceſs, by Mr. Macleod of Geanies, on a piece of this kind of ground of about 40 acres, which are now improved into fields of corn and graſs. The muir grounds, where not fit to be improved for thoſe purpoſes, might be rendered uſeful, by incloſing and planting them with fir and other timber ſo much wanted in this place, which there is every reaſon to think would grow here as in other parts near the ſea. The thriving plantations begun ſome years ago by Mr. Macleod of Geanies on his waſte ground, and to which he is making yearly additions, may, it is to be hoped, call the attention of the other gentlemen of property in the pariſh to this object.

The arable ground yields barley, peaſe, oats and rye. Half is generally laid down with barley, or bear, and the ground is prepared by covering it alternately with ſea weed and dung, with a mixture of black earth and gravel, this laſt being found uſeful to give firmneſs to the ſoil rendered open by the frequent uſe of ſea weed.

In different parts near the ſea, are banks of ſhells, which to the naked eye, have the appearance of coarſe dark coloured ſand. Mr. Wight, in his progreſs through the country, viewed thoſe banks, and recommended the uſe of the ſhells as a manure

manure. They were tried, but the trial not ſucceeding, probably through a failure in the management, a ſecond attempt has not yet been made.—At the bottom of ſome of the moſſes, marle has been diſcovered. That found at a place called Meikle Tarrel is of the richeſt quality, and has been uſed for ſome years paſt by the farmer there, much to his advantage. Mr. Macleod of Geanies has alſo conſiderable quantities of rock and pit marle on different parts of his property. In two farms, ſome of the fields lie on a ſtratum of ſtone of a red colour, which when dug up, is ſoon diſſolved by the ſun and weather, and when ſpread on the ground, is found to have a powerful effect in meliorating the ſoil and crops.——On a few of the farms, oats are the principal crop; peaſe were ſown in large quantities, and the returns were profitable, but that part of the crop has now failed for many years. Potatoes have happily come to ſupply the deficiency. There is not a farm, or ſmall croft, a part of which is not laid out in cultivating this uſeful root. It would be difficult to aſcertain the extent of ground employed for this purpoſe, or the quantities raiſed yearly, but both muſt be very conſiderable, as they are uſed in every family, and conſtitute the principal ſupport of ſome of them, during nine months of the year.

The ſowing of graſs and turnip ſeeds, is another improvement in agriculture which begins to take place in the pariſh. Mr. Macleod of Geanies ſet alſo the example in this, by laying large fields under green crops. Having his ground incloſed gives him great advantage for this, and every other improvement in farming; but the farmers have become ſenſible of the benefit of ſowing graſs in the open fields; and of late, conſiderable quantities of clover and rye-graſs have been laid down in this manner, which there is reaſon to think will become a more general practice.

The number of farms in the pariſh, including thoſe occupied by

by principal farmers and their ſubtenants, is 59. The number of ploughs is 94, commonly drawn by 6 or 8 oxen, and a few on the ſmaller farms, by 2 horſes and 2 oxen.——The quantity of barley ſown yearly, is calculated to be 774 bolls; of oats 1056 bolls; and of peaſe and rye 290 bolls.

Rent.—The valuation of the pariſh, as it ſtands in the ceſs books, amounts to L. 4421 : 10 : 10 Scotch. The real rent, as paid in barley, and from a few farms, partly in barley, and partly in oat meal, amounts to 2352 bolls, which, converted at 12s. the boll, is equal in money to L. 1411 : 4s ſterling.—There is a money rent beſides, of L. 340 : 4 : 10 ſterling, which, added to the former, makes the whole rent to L. 1751 : 8 : 10 ſterling.—Oat meal is now always received and paid away by weight, and 9 ſtones is the common ſtandard of the country for a boll, and where meal is mixed, as in the rent paid from mills, 12½ ſtones are put to a boll.—One farmer pays his rent in money, at a converſion of 10s. the boll, another farmer pays the half of it at a converſion of 11s. Some of the farms where the ſoil is richeſt, are let at the rent of 30s. the acre of arable ground; ſome of them pay from 20s. to 26s. or from 15s. to 20s. and other farms are ſet at 10s. and under; but at an average, the rent may be calculated at 11s. 9d. the acre of arable ground. The muir and paſture lands are not comprehended in this eſtimate, theſe are conſidered as pendicles of the farm, but being open and common to every one, throughout a great part of the year, the farmer can count very little on his profits from them.

The pariſh produces much more corn than is ſufficient for the ſupport of the inhabitants. The victual rents are ſold yearly, to be carried to other parts of the kingdom, or uſed in the country, by diſtillers, and thoſe living in towns, or the Highlands.

Cattle,

Cattle, Horſes, and Sheep.—There are in the pariſh 1176 black cattle, including milch cows, &c. 573 horſes, 2080 ſheep. Only a few of the black cattle are reared here, the greateſt part being purchaſed at the different fairs held in this county, and in Sutherland, in October and November. After ſome years work, when they begin to fail in their ſtrength, they are ſold to the drover, or butcher, ſometimes at a higher price than that for which they were firſt bought. The horſes bred in the country are moſtly of a ſmall ſize, but hardy and fit for the drudgery to which they are firſt put. Many of the farmers in this and other pariſhes of the low country, now repair to the markets in Moray and buy larger horſes, which coſt from L. 6 to L. 13 ——The ſheep are alſo of a diminutive kind, but by being paſtured on the ſhore-grounds become fat, and fetch a good price. A larger breed has been lately introduced into the Highlands, and a few of them are brought down to this and other parts of the low country *.

Boats,

* The expence of a married ſervant, including meal for maintenance, his fees and other allowances, may be fairly eſtimated at L. 10 *per annum*. The unmarried ſervants are commonly maintained in the farmer's houſe, and the ſtated fees and other perquiſites may be rated at L. 4 yearly for a man, and half that ſum for a female ſervant.

In this and other parts of the country, the harveſt is generally cut down by a fixed number of reapers, in proportion to the extent of the farm. They are hired for the ſeaſon, and paid either in corn, or money, as they chuſe. A man has 20s. or the value of it, 15s. is the common allowance given to a woman reaper. They are either maintained in the family by their employers, or have ſome additional allowances for their maintenance. It has now become more frequently the practice to call a number of reapers as the corn ripens, to diſpatch the work and prevent loſs by the weather. They are paid at the rate of 6d. or 8d. per day.

The ordinary hire of a labourer for farmer work is 8d. per day, and for garden work, cutting peats and mowing graſs, 1s.—Ditches, dykes and trenching are paid by meaſurement, and coſt as follows; ditches 2d. ſingle ſtones dykes 2d. doubled do. 3½d. mud fences 3½d. the yard; trenching L. 4 ſterling the acre.

Boats, Fiſheries, and Harbours.—There are 12 boats belonging to the pariſh, of that number two are moſtly employed in carrying freights. Some of them belong to people who fiſh occaſionally, and require no more than two or three hands to work them. There are five fiſher-towns on different parts of the coaſt. The proprietors of the ground furniſh a new boat every ſeven years, to be upheld by the crew, and are entitled to a fifth part of the fiſh caught, or of their gains of whatever kind; but theſe dues are now moſtly converted into money. The larger boats pay annually L. 4 ſterling and the ſmaller L. 3—Every ſpecies of gray fiſh is to be found on the coaſt, and a great variety of ſhell-fiſh. From a trial made at an expence of the gentlemen of property in the pariſh, it appeared, that, with the neceſſary tackle, ling, holybut and turbot might be had in abundance. Some old people remember a cod fiſhing at Portmaholmack, where the beaches for drying the cod are ſtill to be ſeen.—This year 1792 a lobſter fiſhing was begun, and carried on very ſucceſsfully, partly by Meſſrs. Selby and Creſſwell of London, but moſtly by a reſpectable ſociety, under the firm of the Northumberland fiſhing company. In the courſe of the ſeaſon, from March to July, more than 50,000 lobſters were caught at Tarbat-Neſs, and near it; and from firſt to laſt, 28 veſſels touched at the point to receive the lobſters, and carry them to market. The charters of one property in the pariſh convey a right to a ſalmon fiſhing, but if any ſuch did ever actually exiſt, it has been ſo long diſcontinued, that there is no remembrance of it. However, ſalmon are ſometimes ſeen ſpringing out of the water, near the ſhore; but there being no rivers to invite their ſtay, it is probable they only take a ſhort reſt here, in proceeding to, or returning from the rivers and lochs in the Highlands, where they leave their ſpawn.

The variety of fiſh upon the coaſt, occaſions it to be frequen-

ted

ted by ſeals, porpoiſes and whales. A large one of the ſpermaceti kind was in the year 1756 ſtranded on the rocks to the weſt of Portmaholmack. It meaſured 63 feet in length, and yielded a great quantity of ſpermaceti and blubber. The otter is ſometimes ſurpriſed at land in his lurking places, and is valued for his ſkin *.

There are upon the different ſides of the pariſh ſix harbours, and a number of ſmall creeks. Of the harbours, Portmaholmack is the only one fit to receive veſſels of any conſiderable burden, the reſt being merely landing places for open boats.—There was a ſtone pier built there, at the expence of the firſt Earl of Cromarty, which now, through time and neglect, lies in ruins. The want of this pier has, within theſe forty years, occaſioned the total loſs of three veſſels, and as many more were, from the ſame cauſe, ſtranded on the ſhallows in the frith, and not got off without much damage and expence. From a ſurvey lately made, it appears, that at full ſea, with a ſpring tide, there are thirteen feet of water at the pier head, and 9 feet with a neap tide. Ships driven by eaſterly

* Of land animals, the fox has his den amongſt the rocks, and lives moſtly on ſhell-fiſh, though ſometimes he makes excurſions in ſearch of game, and to commit depredations on the farmer's poultry.—The hares are numerous in the pariſh, and remarked for their ſwiftneſs; when the ſnow lies on the ground, they retire to the ſhores as a place of warmth and ſhelter.—Of game birds, patridges are in great numbers in the pariſh, though kept down by the hawk and kite, and other birds of prey, as well as the ſportſman.—The green plover or lapwing comes early in the ſpring, and quits the country again in the months of July and Auguſt.—The ſwallow and cuckow come in the ſummer, and diſappear in the middle of harveſt; when theſe birds take their departure, numerous flocks of curlews, mountain plovers, wild geeſe and ſwans return with their young ones from the hills and lochs, where they had hatched and reared them in the ſummer months. The various kinds of the wild duck do not remove from this place, but are inhabitants of the marſhes and ſhores, during the whole year.

terly ſtorms could with eaſe paſs Tarbat-Neſs and lie here in ſafety, the ſituation of the harbour giving it ſhelter from every wind which might hurt.

There is not in the N. part of Scotland, and what is called the low country, a place better calculated than Portmaholmack, if ſo well, for a fiſhing ſtation, from the convenience of its harbour, its nearneſs to the ſea where the fiſh is to be found, proper ground adjoining whereon to erect houſes, and plenty of excellent free-ſtone at hand to build them.

From the increaſe of trade, and the eſtabliſhment of manufactures in this, and the neighbouring county, veſſels have occaſion to proceed more frequently than formerly through the frith, to Tain, Dornoch, and other parts on the coaſt, which adds to the importance of Portmaholmack, as a place for thoſe veſſels to run into when overtaken by ſtorms. The late Sir John Gordon, who was then the proprietor, had an intention of aſking the aid of government, for repairing and enlarging the pier, and plans of the work, and eſtimates of the expence were made out. Further progreſs in the affair was prevented by the death of that worthy gentleman; but the reaſons ſtill exiſt in their full force; nor could a few hundred pounds of the public money be laid out on a work more uſeful and more neceſſary *.

Population

* There are five caves on the coaſt, the entry to one of which is ſo low, that to get in, one muſt creep on all fours; within there is a ſpacious apartment, having around it a natural bench of ſtone. The entry to another reſembles a ſtately porch, which ſtands at the diſtance of ſeveral feet from the rocks, and from this entry there is a covered way to the body of the cave, which runs a conſiderable length, and has three apartments, one behind another arched at the top like a vault, through which the water oozes, and in time of froſt hangs from the roof in a number of icicles.

At the northmoſt point of Tarbat, is a creek acceſſible to a boat at highwater. There is a tradition of a fort, built here on a ſmall mote within the creek,

Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755	1584	Fishermen - -	41
——— in 1792	1370	Millers and wrights	11
Males - -	638	Weavers - -	12
Females - -	732	Shoemakers -	12
Under 6 years of age	198	Taylors - -	11
Males - -	97	Smiths - -	5
Females - -	101	Masons - -	2
Between 70 and 80	14	Heritors resident -	1
Between 80 and 90 -	8	——— non-resident	4
Between 90 and 100	1	Marriages from 1st October 1784 to 1st of August 1792 -	89
Families or houses -	300	Births do. - -	328
Widowers and widows	72	Deaths do. - -	248
Farmers - -	59		
Male servants -	140		
Female do. - -	118		

creek, having the sea on each side. No vestiges remain of the building, both the mote and a narrow neck or causeway which led to it from the land being now covered with grass; but it is easy to trace the foundation of a wall of considerable extent, which defended it on the landside. The creek retains the name of Port-Chasteil, or Castlehaven, and from it, the first Earl of Cromarty, assumed one his titles of nobility, and transferred that name to the old family seat, *Tarbat*, which is now in the maps of this part of Scotland marked Castlehaven. This fort might be intended to repel the Danes and Norwegians, who formerly so often infested the coast, or as a place of security from the predatory incursions of the natives in those uncivilized times, when it was customary for the head of one clan with his followers, to break into the territories of another, with every act of hostility.

The parishes of Nigg, Fearn and Tarbat lie in a direct line betwixt Dunseath, or Dunsheath-Ness at the west, and Tarbat-Ness, where Port-Chasteil lies, at the east, and both forts, from their situation, would easily protect these and the other adjacent parishes, which, from their fertility, were most liable to be attacked by plunderers. And the etymology of the Gaelic word *Ether Dover*, or *Eddir dha Mhuir*, is exactly descriptive of the situation of the fort at Tarbat-Ness, which stood on a narrow point betwixt two seas. If this account

One cause of the decrease of the number of inhabitants is uniting different farms into one, a practice undoubtedly inimical to population; another cause is the loss of some fishermen at sea, the removal of others from the parish, and that some crews were suffered die out, without having their places supplied. But what chiefly contributes to the decrease of the inhabitants, is a yearly emigration to the south of young people who never return.

There is now living in the parish a female dwarf, aged betwixt 30 and 40, who measures only 34 inches; in height there is no other deformity about her.

Diseases, Climate, and Fuel.—There are no diseases peculiar to the parish from climate or any other cause; but there have been instances of more than ordinary mortality from epidemical distempers spreading over the country, and making their way hither. The fevers now most common are of the nervous and putrid kinds. A species of the latter is distinguished by the name of the yellow fever, so termed, because as soon as the patient expires the body becomes of that colour. The small-pox is the disease which has proved most fatal to the rising generation, its effects were particularly calamitous in 1756, when it carried off 75 children. In 1768 it cut off 46, and 38 since the month of October last (1791). Some families at those

count shall be rejected, it will be difficult, by tradition or any other way, to find a place wherein to fix the castle of *Ether Dover*.

There were in the parish six of those houses called castles, which towards the end of the last and the beginning of this century were inhabited by antient and respectable families. One of them belonged to the Sinclairs of Dunbeath. —The ruins of another stand a monument of the taste and grandeur of former times. The old name was Tarbat Castle, and Ballone, from a marsh behind it. It stands above the sea, and upon the very limits of the property, as if intended to prevent incroachments.

thoſe different periods loſt their whole children. Inoculation when tried failed only in one inſtance, and there are families in the place, in which there was not an inſtance of recovery until this method was taken; notwithſtanding which, the people ſtill retain a ſtrong prejudice againſt it, and ſeem deaf to all arguments uſed to ſhow its lawfulneſs and expediency, as a mean which providence has bleſſed for ſaving thouſands of lives.

The air here is very pure, there is little rain in ſummer, becauſe there are no mountains to condenſe or break the clouds; during that ſeaſon, the breezes from the eaſt ſerve to allay the heat and refreſh the ſpirits through the day, and bring dews, which promote vegetation, in the night.

The pariſh labours under a conſiderable diſadvantage, from the ſcarcity of peats and other fuel. The privilege of the ſcanty moſſes in the pariſh is reſtricted to a few families living on the properties to which they belong, and the far greater part of the inhabitants are left to make the beſt ſhift they can for this neceſſary article of life, and put to a great expence of time and money in purchaſing and getting it carried home. A circumſtance hurtful to the farmer, by taking him off the work of his farm, and which renders the condition of the poorer ſort very uncomfortable during the winter and ſpring ſeaſons, and proves in general a great check to induſtry. They begin now to uſe coals from Newcaſtle, and find this the eaſieſt way of ſupplying themſelves; and for ſome time paſt a cargo from that place of 5 or 600 barrels, is annually delivered in the harbour of Portmaholmack, at 1s. 11d. or 2s. each. They could be had much lower, but for the high duty laid upon coals carried to the north of the Red-Head.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Schools, and Poor.—Tarbat was one of the menſal

menſal churches belonging to the Biſhop of Roſs. The Biſhop was patron, and had what remained of the tiends, after the ſhare allowed by him to the perſon employed to perform the duties of the paſtoral office. At the revolution the King became patron, and the Earl of Cromarty obtained from Queen Anne a gift of the patronage, which has now devolved upon Mrs Urquhart of New-hall.—The church was built in 1756, and the manſe in 1707—By a decreet of locality *anno* 1708, the ſtipend was modified at nine chalders, payable equally in bear and oat meal, with the vicarage or ſmall tithes.—There was a new decreet *anno* 1781, by which no alteration was made in the victual, but 300 merks Scotch, of money ſtipend were appointed, and the vicarage tithes made over to the heritors. The living at the ordinary converſion may be eſtimated at L. 90 ſterling, including a ſmall glebe of four acres. From the ſtate of the free tiends, there is a large fund for an augmentation. The eſtate of Tarbat, which is nearly the half of the pariſh, pays no ſhare of the victual ſtipend. The reaſon of that exemption when the former decreet paſſed, was a long tack of the tiends obtained from King William by the firſt Earl of Cromarty, which is now run out.

There is a parochial ſchool near the church, and a convenient houſe lately built for teacher and ſcholars. The ſalary is L. 5 ſterling in money from the heritors, and 8 bolls of barley from the farmers, and this with the other emoluments may be eſtimated at L. 16 *per annum*.—There are no diſſenters in the pariſh, except three families who have lately come from a part of the country in which a ſeceding meeting houſe is eſtabliſhed; but they occaſionally attend the eſtabliſhed church.—Gaelic being the common language of the people, the greater part of religious ſervice on Sundays is performed in that language. Many of the inhabitants are taught to read

Engliſh,

Engliſh, and ſome who cannot read, underſtand a little of it in common converſation; but in general, they prefer Gaelic*.

The number of poor ſtanding at preſent on the pariſh roll is 110. Few of theſe are mendicants. Widows, fatherleſs children, and orphans left deſtitute, ſervants and labourers laid aſide with age or ſickneſs are received into the number, and have a ſmall pittance given them at an annual diſtribution made of the money ariſing from the ordinary collections in church on Sundays, and from the pariſh mortcloths and bells, amounting commonly to about L. 16 or L. 17 ſterling.—Extraordinary collections amounting, to 2, 3, or L. 4 ſterling, are ſometimes made for the relief of perſons in circumſtances of peculiar diſtreſs. There is no other fund for the poor but a charitable donation by the firſt Earl of Cromarty, from a part of his property in the pariſh, which bears the name of the mortified lands, and is exempted from the payment of ceſs and other public burdens. The charity paid from theſe lands is 36 bolls barley; 12½ bolls of which belong to this pariſh, and the remaining part to the pariſhes of Fodderty, Kilmuir and Loggie Eaſter.—It was intended for the relief of decayed farmers and others in indigent circumſtances, living on the eſtates which

* There were three chapels in different parts of the pariſh; a part of the walls of one of them remains, which was built, as is ſaid, by———Dunbar of Tarbat, and is ſtill pointed out, by the name of Dunbar's chapel. Of another, which was ſituated on the ſhore to the eaſt of the old caſtle of Tarbat, there is nothing left but ſome rubbiſh, and ſtones piled up, or uſed as a wall to a piece of ground laid out for a garden, in trenching of which human bones are frequently thrown up. Near it, there is a plentiful ſpring of water, which continues to bear the name of *Tobair Mhuir*, or Mary's Well. The rock above is covered with ivy, and at the foot of it, a ſmall cave or grotto is ſhewn as the abode of the prieſt. The Gaelic name of the place, *Teampul Eraich*, the place at which the people aſſembled for worſhip, preſerves the memory of what it once was.

which belonged to the noble donor, in this, and the other pariſhes now mentioned, in 1686 *.

Miſcellaneous

* The ſpring of the year 1782 falls to be noticed for a ſcarcity of provender, and the ruin of many families, both in the Highlands and low country, by the loſs of their cattle, as the conſequence of that ſcarcity. It was occaſioned by a rainy and late harveſt, and a long continued froſt and ſnow during the winter and part of the ſpring, and at laſt roſe to ſuch a height, that in the working ſeaſon, neither ſtraw nor hay could be had for any money. This pariſh ſhared in the common calamity, and ſome farmers were neceſſitated to quit their farms and reduced to poverty.

But theſe loſſes were forgotten in the miſeries that followed them in the year 1783, from the failure of the crop of the preceding year, and a real want of bread for the uſe of man. The want commenced early in the Highland parts of the country, and in January of that year (1783) many came down to this and other pariſhes of the low country, in ſearch of proviſions for their families; as the ſeaſon advanced, their wants, and numbers increaſed, and multitudes from the heights of both Roſs and Sutherland might be daily ſeen traverſing the different pariſhes, ſupplicating ſupplies of meal or corn, in any quantity, for their money; and a pitiable caſe it was, to ſee perſons young and otherwiſe vigorous, in this condition, having hunger and diſtreſs of mind painted in their countenances. The price of corn roſe from 15s. to 20s. and 21s. and at length to 26s. 28s. and 30s. the boll. The late Admiral Sir John Roſs and ſome other gentlemen of property in the county, touched with the general diſtreſs, ordered corn brought from other places to be given out amongſt their people in ſmall quantities, according to their families, to be paid when they ſhould be in better condition. Upwards of 12,000 bolls were imported from the eaſt country to Inverneſs by means of Meſſrs *Falls* of Dunbar and others, and ſcattered over the different northern counties; and his Majeſty's paternal care, and the attention of his miniſters, ſhould be remembered with gratitude, in ſending at different times cargoes of barley, peaſe and flour to be diſtributed amongſt the indigent in ſeveral pariſhes, at the diſcretion of the miniſters and elders. But for thoſe ſupplies, diſorder and rapine would have prevailed, and the poor, rendered deſperate by famine like ſo many hungry wolves, would have broke looſe, and laid hands on whatever they could find. The aid of government, then afforded this pariſh, amounted to 36 bolls, which were diſtributed at different times amongſt houſeholders in ſtraits, to the number of 415, and proved a moſt ſeaſonable relief.

The

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are only two public houſes in the pariſh, and theſe little frequented but by ſtrangers. Induſtry is not confined to the work of the farmer without doors, but within alſo, the miſtreſs of the houſe and the other females are employed in preparing webs from the wool and lint raiſed on the farm, partly for family uſe, and partly for ſale, and there is ſcarce a houſe inhabited by the inferior claſs of people, in which does not go on ſpinning of hemp or flax, given out by perſons employed for the manufactures of ſail cloth and linen yarn eſtabliſhed at Cromarty and Inverneſs. The expence of ſupporting a family has, within theſe forty years, riſen to more than double what it was before that period. Meal of every kind draws nearly three times the money for which it could have been purchaſed, and fiſh has riſen in a ſtill higher proportion. A ſhilling is paid for what till very lately could have been got for a penny. The increaſe of the expence of clothing is ſtill more conſiderable, and more heavily felt by perſons in the middle and lower ranks of life, who, to appear decent, and comply with the faſhion of the times, muſt have

This will be a memorable æra in the hiſtory of this country, and it is already marked by the people, in their calendar, with the epithet of the *Black Year*. One agreeable circumſtance attended ſo much miſery, that not a ſingle perſon died merely of famine, though diſeaſes followed, which cut off many, whoſe conſtitution had been enfeebled by what they ſuffered at that period. The caſe was different during a ſcarcity which prevailed in this country in the ſummer of the year 1741. Many were then found dead on the highways and in the fields; and others, through long faſting, expired as ſoon as they taſted food. But the planting of potatoes in the field was not at that time known in this country; in place of importation, the rents paid in corn were a great part of them carried out of the country, till the mob put a ſtop to this, by breaking up a ſloop laden with oat meal for Greenock; and the calamity, however heavily felt in this corner, was not ſo general as to draw the notice of government or bring public aid.

recourſe to the ſhop, and diſtribute the greateſt part of their income and earnings among the merchants, for fineries in dreſs not known to their fathers *.

The lands of the pariſh hold of the crown. The diſtrict to the eaſt of Portmaholmack was of old called the foreſt of the Earl of Roſs, and continues to pay L. 40 Scotch of crown rent; a ſum which, though now a mere trifle, might, in thoſe times when the boll of corn was converted at half a merk Scotch, be the real rent of a tract of ground which at preſent yields the proprietor near L. 400 ſterling yearly.

There are lands in the pariſh which held of the biſhop of Roſs and Abbot of Fearn Some of the lands moſt contiguous to the pariſh of Fearn, are by the country people called by the name of the *Abbeachd*, i. e. Abbey lands, and it is probable, made a part of the revenue with which the abbacy was endowed by its founder *Ferchard* Earl of Roſs. They are ſtill aſtricted to the mills of Fearn, and the people occupying them obliged to carry their corns thither to be grinded. One gentleman, Mr. Macleod of Geanies, lately bought off that vaſſalage, and has erected mills on his own property, to accommodate himſelf and his people.

The moſt material defects in the management of farms ſeem to be, 1ſt, ſuffering the grounds to run out by conſtant tillage, and

* Corn, the ſtaple commodity of this part of the country, has riſen conſiderably within theſe 40 years, but not in an equal proportion with other things. Barley and oat-meal, which before 1750 were often ſold by contract at 8s. and 9s. the boll, bring now frequently from 12s. to 14s. But cattle, great and ſmall, have advanced in their price, in the proportion of 3 to 1. A ſheep which before the 1746 never went beyond 2s. 6d. fetches now from 6s. to 8s. and if of a larger ſize, from 10s. to 14s. and a milch cow, or ox for work, for which 35s. or 40s. would have been then reckoned a high price, cannot now be bought for leſs than L. 4 or L. 5 ſterling.

and not recruiting or keeping them clean, by fallowing or resting; 2d, employing a superfluous number of working cattle and servants, which runs away with the greatest part of the profits. But there is reason to expect, that the modern methods of husbandry may soon be introduced universally into the country, as they are already adopted by gentlemen of property and the more wealthy and knowing class of farmers.

At Tarbat-Ness, and around it, and in almost every corner of the parish, there is an inexhaustible fund of free stone, easily wrought, durable and of a beautiful colour.

NUMBER XLVI.

PARISH OF CRANSHAWS.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNSE, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TIVIOTDALE, COUNTY OF BERWICK.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE DRUMMOND.

Name, and Situation.

THERE is no certain account, nor even any conjecture which has the least appearance of probability, with regard to the origin of the name of this parish.——Part of the parish of Longformacus intersects it in the middle; so that one half, and indeed the largest half of this district, lies at the distance of 4 or 5 miles from the church. An inconvenience which attends many parishes in this part of the country.

Population.—There are only 164 inhabitants in the parish, of whom 84 are males and 80 females. The population of this, and many of the neighbouring parishes, has of late considerably diminished. The only reason that can be assigned for this diminution is the monopoly of farms. About 50 or 60 years ago there were above 16 farmers in the parish; the whole is now in the possession of 3 only. The return to Dr. Webster in 1754 was 214 souls.

Climate,

Climate, Rivers, &c.—The elevated ſituation of the pariſh, being in the middle of Lammermuir hills, renders the air ſharp and cold; it is however pure and healthy; and during the ſummer months the climate is tolerably mild and temperate. Though in all the different ſeaſons there are frequent fogs, yet as they are generally confined to the tops of the hills, the health of the inhabitants is ſeldom injured by them *.

The Whiteadder or Whitewater runs along the N. and E. ſides of the pariſh.—The river Dye alſo runs through part of this diſtrict. They are inconſiderable ſtreams, but abound with trout of an excellent quality. The banks of both were formerly covered with natural wood, which rendered the appearance of the country in ſummer moſt delightfully romantic; but now there is not a tree or even a ſhrub to be found on them.

There are no manufacturers of any kind in the pariſh. Its inland ſituation and great diſtance from proper fuel, are unfavourable to their eſtabliſhment. The generality of the inhabitants are therefore employed in agriculture. There are 2 maſons, 4 joiners, 2 weavers, 1 blackſmith, and 1 taylor, chiefly employed in working to the people of the pariſh and neighbourhood, ſeldom manufacturing any articles for ſale. The inhabitants in general are frugal, ſober and induſtrious, free from diſſipation, and not addicted to drinking, or any other ſpecies of intemperance. As a proof of their induſtry and ſobriety, it deſerves to be mentioned that for more than 20 years

* There are few epidemical diſtempers in this part of the country. The moſt prevalent diſorder is the rheumatiſm, probably owing to the changeableneſs of the weather, and the coldneſs and dampneſs of the houſes. Fevers are not frequent. And the ague, which prevails ſo much among the common people in the lower parts of Berwickſhire, is almoſt unknown here. The people in general live to a conſiderable age. Among the ſmall number of inhabitants this pariſh contains, there are at preſent 6 perſons above 70 years of age, two of whom are above 80.

years preceding 1788, there was only one person upon the poor's roll, and since that time there have been only two on that list.

Agriculture.—As the greatest part of the parish consists of high hills, covered with heath or bent, the lands in general are more adapted to the breeding of cattle and sheep than the raising of grain. There are, however, on all the different farms, a considerable quantity of arable ground, which is very serviceable to the tenants, as it supplies their families with corn, and provides fodder for their cattle in winter. The soil, being light and dry, is suitable for raising of turnips and sown grass. Of late the farmers have availed themselves of the advantages arising from this kind of soil, and have already carried this species of improvement to a considerable height. Their principal dependance being on cattle and sheep, renders the culture of turnips and sown grass an object of great importance; not only as being the best food for these animals, but sometimes the only food that can be got for the sheep, for in severe winters the snow is commonly so deep as to prevent their getting any nourishment either from the grass or heath. Before the introduction of the turnip husbandry, and the raising of clover and rye-grass, the farmers were frequently obliged in the winter season to drive their sheep into the low country, and purchase hay for them. This was not only attended with great inconvenience and expence, but sometimes also with the loss of a considerable part of their flocks, owing to the difficulty of driving them through the deep snow, and the weak and reduced condition in which the animals generally were before their owners had recourse to this expedient.

The introduction of the use of lime as a manure has been of great benefit to the arable grounds in the neighbourhood. Very considerable crops of oats, barley and pease have by means thereof

thereof been raiſed from land which in its natural ſtate was of little or no value. And it has not only the effect of occaſioning a more luxuriant and plentiful, but alſo a much earlier crop; a circumſtance of great importance in a hilly country like this, where the harveſt is commonly late, and the grain in danger of being injured by the froſt before it comes to maturity. Another advantage reſulting from it is, that it is peculiarly favourable to the growth of clover. Nay, in this cold climate, it is abſolutely eſſential to its vegetation. For it has been found by various trials, that even on the beſt and moſt fertile ſpots in this part of the country, it is impoſſible to raiſe this uſeful plant without the aid of lime; whereas, by employing this manure, the worſt of the arable land may be made to produce it. And it is a circumſtance worthy of obſervation, that ſo great is the efficacy of lime for promoting its vegetation, that, by laying a quantity of it on the ſurface of the moſt uncultivated ground, it cauſes white clover to ſpring ſpontaneouſly. This circumſtance is the more remarkable, as there have been many accidental inſtances of this effect of lime in the midſt of the wildeſt moors, by the breaking down or overturning of the carts employed in carrying it: And that too, at ſo great diſtance from any other lands where this plant uſually grows, as renders it difficult to account how the ſeed could have been conveyed; and yet repeated experience has ſhewn that lime laid on ſuch land, whether by deſign or accident, has uniformly had the effect of deſtroying the heath or bent, and occaſioning the vegetation of white clover, in great abundance.

It is proper, however, to obſerve, that notwithſtanding the tendency which lime has to meliorate the ſoil, yet a conſiderable part of the arable ground in this and the neighbouring pariſhes has been much injured by the improper uſe of it, or rather

ther by the injudicious management of the land after laying that uſeful manure upon it. For although, of all the calcareous manures, lime is unqueſtionably the beſt, yet as it acts rather as a ſtimulus than a ſubſtantial manure, and cauſes the land to make its greateſt exertions in the way of vegetation, it has a tendency to exhauſt the ſoil, if not cropped with caution. When it was firſt employed in the cultivation of the lands of this pariſh, little attention was paid to this circumſtance. The difficulty of driving lime at the diſtance of 16 or 17 miles through very bad roads, induced the farmers to take as many crops as the land would yield, to refund them for their expence and trouble. And by theſe means after taking eight or nine crops of oats ſucceſſively, it was commonly left in a ſtate of total ſterility, incapable of producing either graſs or corn. This pernicious practice is now in a great meaſure laid aſide; and the generality of the farmers diſcover equal ſkill and caution both in the mode of managing and cropping the lands which they improve with lime, and alſo in the means which they uſe for recovering what had formerly been impoveriſhed by over-cropping.

Horſes, Cattle, and Sheep.—There are about 30 horſes, 200 black cattle, and 3500 ſheep in the pariſh. The horſes are all kept for the purpoſes of huſbandry. There are few bred in the pariſh, and none at all for ſale. The cattle are but of a ſmall kind; are bred for ſale, and bring from L. 4 : 10 to L. 5 : 5 a head when three years old. The ſheep, which are of the ſmall black faced kind, are ſold lean after they are three years old. The average price for ſome years paſt is from 9 to 10 guineas the ſcore. The farmers ſeem to think that this kind of ſheep is moſt ſuitable to the paſture, and have on that account made no attempts to improve the breed. They carry a coarſe

kind

kind of wool; it is all laid with tar, and has for ſome years paſt ſold from 9s. to 10s. 6d. per ſtone *.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The value of the living, including the glebe, is ſcarcely L. 50 a year. The ſtipend is only L. 36 : 19 : 5 The glebe conſiſts of about fifteen Engliſh acres, moſt of it tolerably good land. It has of late been much injured by the inundations of the Whitewater, which has conſiderably diminiſhed its value. The church was built in 1739. The manſe ſome years earlier. They have both been lately repaired. The patron is Charles Watſon Eſqr. of Saughton †.

* The wages of male ſervants, who get their board in the houſe, are from L. 6 to L. 7 a year, and female ſervants from L. 3 to L. 4. Servants who have families, and keep houſes of their own, receive a certain quantity of meal or grain, have ſo many ſheep grazed, are allowed to keep a cow, have their fuel brought home, and ſeveral other perquiſites; the value of which may amount to about L. 13 or L. 14. The wages of a labourer by the day is 1s. in ſummer, and 10d. in winter; except in hay time and harveſt, when they receive conſiderably more. The wages of women, for weeding turnips, potatoes, &c. is 5d. per day.

† In different parts of the pariſh are traces of ſeveral antient encampments, though none of them appear to have been of any conſiderable extent. They are ſo much effaced, as to render it difficult to diſtinguiſh of what kind they have been.—Cranſhaws caſtle, the property of Mr. Watſon of Saughton, is an oblong ſquare of 40 feet by 24. The walls are 45 feet high, and it has a battlement on the top. It is a very antient building, and before the union of the two kingdoms, had been uſed as a place of defence, to which the inhabitants of this part of the country were accuſtomed to retreat, upon ſudden incurſions of the Engliſh borderers. There are in many of the neighbouring pariſhes the remains and ruins of ſimilar edifices, but this is the only one in this part of the country that is ſtill entire. It has been lately repaired by its preſent proprietor, and is occupied by him as a dwelling houſe, when he viſits this part of his eſtate.

On a hill, on the weſt ſide of the pariſh, are two heaps of ſtones of an immenſe ſize, each containing, as is ſuppoſed, many thouſand carts-load. A tradition

As the planting and raiſing of wood is of the greateſt importance to the country in general, ſo it would in this and the neighbouring pariſhes be particularly beneficial to landholders and tenants, not only as being the beſt mode of employing waſte land, but likewiſe from the ſhelter it could afford, if judiciouſly laid out, in ſurrounding the valuable fields that are already, or may yet be, improved for raiſing corn and hay. But the greateſt advantage ariſing from it would be the ſhelter it would afford to the flocks of ſheep in winter. Many farmers in this part of the country have in one night loſt a third, and ſometimes near the half, of their ſheep by a heavy fall of ſnow. The efficacy of planting for preventing loſſes of this kind is well known to all ſtore farmers. The ſhortneſs, however, of leaſes in general gives little encouragement to the tenant to raiſe wood for this purpoſe at his own expence, becauſe before he could derive much benefit from it, his leaſe would expire. It may therefore be ſuggeſted as an object worthy the attention of proprietors in this part of the country, as they muſt ultimately be the gainers by an improvement of this kind, not only on account of its greatly inhancing the value of their farms, from the ſecurity which it would afford to the tenant for the ſafety of his ſheep in winter, but likewiſe from the value of the wood itſelf; the ſoil, as appears from experiments that have already been made, being very favourable to the raiſing of different kinds of timber.

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tradition has long prevailed, that they had been collected together to commemorate the death of two twin brothers who fell in battle, when they were commanding oppoſite armies, and from thence the hill on which theſe piles are erected, obtained the name of Twinlaw. Upon a tradition of this kind, unſupported by accounts from hiſtory little dependence can be put, eſpecially as it is entirely ſilent with regard to the quality of the perſons, and the time when the tranſaction happened. It is probable, however, that ſomething memorable had happened at that place; as it was cuſtomary for the antients to adopt this mode of tranſmitting to poſterity the remembrance of events they conſidered important or remarkable.

NUMBER XLVII.

PARISH OF SANQUHAR.

(PRESBYTERY OF PENPONT, SYNOD AND COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM RANKEN.

Towns, and Manufactures.

IN the objects of our research, when we cannot arrive at intuitive clearness or absolute certainty, we must rest satisfied with the highest attainable probability. The modern name of this parish is Sanquhar; but it approaches almost to certainty, that the antient was Sanch-Car (or Caer) from the Celtic; the first syllable signifying in that language Ratifier with the touch, and the last, a town*. It is highly probable, admitting this etymology, that the name has a striking allusion to the antient formulary of consecration, which was rehearsed, or rather sung, and thereupon the presiding person of the popular assembly touched with a wand, a sacred bough, or sceptre,

* See a learned attempt to retrieve the antient Celtic by the analytic method, or reduction to radicals.

tre, either the thing itself, or whatever was to represent the thing, the person, or the act of the assembly. This ceremony was followed by that of the ratifying touch, or with a touch giving solidity or integrity to the public resolution.——Sanquhar was erected into a burgh of barony in 1484, prior to which period, it had been a burgh of the same kind, from time immemorial. At the instance of Robert Crichton, Lord of Sanquhar, it was erected into a royalty, in 1596, by King James VI. It stands 27 miles distant from Dumfries in the southern, and 33 miles from Ayr in the western direction, being both ways nearly equidistant from the sea. It has only one principal street, and is about ¼ of a mile in length. It is governed by a provost, a dean of Guild, three bailies, a treasurer, and eleven counsellors. The gross revenue of the burgh, at present, scarcely amounts to L. 50 *per annum*. It has indeed, besides, a commonty of considerable extent, which, from its being in a rude uncultivated state, is worth only about L. 10 *per annum*. ——Sanquhar is apparently increasing in population; but as no register has been kept, it is impossible to ascertain with what degree of rapidity. Knitting of stockings was formerly a considerable branch of manufacture in the burgh, by which a number of the lower class were decently supported. To invigorate the spirit of industry, and to reward its exertions, the late patriotic Duke of Queensberry, and the trustees for the encouragement of manufactures, gave annually a premium of L. 40 each, to be divided in part to those employed in this branch in Sanquhar; and in part, to those employed in any other useful manufactures within the bounds of the presbytery. But upon the breaking out of the American war, which, for a time, shut up the commercial intercourse with this country, this branch received a fatal blow, because the stockings manufactured here, were chiefly exported to Virginia. They were mostly of a coarse quality; though some of them were

so

ſo fine as to be drawn through a ring for the finger, and ſo much admired, that they have been worn by the preſent heir apparent to the Crown. To give an idea of the importance and extent of this branch, one perſon in Sanquhar for a number of years, ſent to a ſingle houſe in Glaſgow 4800 pair of ſtockings annually. This manufacture is ſtill carried on, but feebly, and on a much narrower ſcale than formerly.

Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.—The pariſh ſtretches from N. to S. about 15 miles, and from E. to W. about 9 or 10. Its figure is very irregular. It was originally of great extent, and was much enlarged, about the year 1730, by the annexation of a very conſiderable part of Kirk-bride, which was ſuppreſſed about that period. It may, with propriety, be ſtiled the eye of the county, from its ſtanding near the head of it, to which there is a gradual elevation from the ſea, on the ſouthern direction, of almoſt 3000 feet.—The general face of the pariſh is extremely rugged and uneven, and may be called an Highland country. Within it is part of that high tract, known by the name of the Lowthers or Lothiers, generally reckoned amongſt the higheſt land in Scotland. Theſe hills are bleak and barren on the ſurface, but contain immenſe riches in their bowels. Beſides theſe, more than one half of the pariſh conſiſts of high hills, ſome of which are green, others covered with heath. Some riſe gradually from the baſe, others with uncommon boldneſs and majeſty; ſome are of a conical, others of an elliptic form. From their ſummits in the ſummer months, there is a proſpect, that dazzles and overpowers the eye. The ſoil, at the foot of theſe hills, is partly moſs, and partly clay, but in many places, when oats are ſown, the want of a ſouthern expoſure and the ſpungy nature of the ground occaſion a late and precarious harveſt. The exhalations which ariſe from the rivers, and from the wet and marſhy grounds, fall down in

hoar

hoar frosts, and are very pernicious to every kind of grain, before it comes to a proper consistency. Were the climate, however, answerable to the soil, there is no doubt, that excellent crops might be raised in many places, which the husbandman has never yet attempted to cultivate. The S. W. end of the parish is of a light gravelish soil, which in dry seasons produces only a moderate crop, but with gentle showers in April and May yields abundantly; and has this advantage above every other part of the parish, that the crop is earlier ripe, and earlier in the barn-yard. About the center of the parish the soil is deeper, particularly the holm land on the banks of the Nith, which though it cannot be called a rich loam, produces excellent crops, with the assistance of lime or dung. It is but of late years that the farmers generally began to use the former for the improvement of their land, to which they seem to have been induced by observing its good effects on the farms of some individuals, who had made the experiment before them. Reasoning may drive men to silence, but it is only the experience of a new and better system of farming, that will lead them from the old. The lime used in this parish is brought from Corson Con, a hill which is the boundary betwixt this county and Ayrshire, at the distance of 10 and 12 miles, and the price at the quarry is 3d. per Winchester bushel. A single horse and cart generally brings 12 or 14 bushels, which is a sufficient load, as the road is in some places steep, and not in the best repair. The land, in general, is much better adapted to the breeding and feeding of sheep and black cattle, than to raising of grain. The grain commonly sown is oats, barley, or rather bear, some few pease and turnips. Rye-grass seeds and clover are not sown, but only upon some spots of the best land around the burgh, and near the banks of the Nith. Potatoes are generally planted, and form a very considerable part of the subsistence of the poor, there being but a very inconsiderable part of the land under

tillage.

tillage. The whole grain raiſed in the pariſh is not ſufficient to ſupply the inhabitants one half of the year, as there is not, at an average, more than 600 or 700 acres under the plough. There is an annual ſupply of meal imported from Dumfries market, and the lower parts of the county *.

Population.—No regiſter having been kept of the population of the pariſh, muſt render this part of the hiſtory very defective †. The population in 1755, as returned to Dr. Webſter, was 1998 ſouls. From an enumeration made by the preſent incumbent in 1786, there were found to be 2600, young

* From the deſcription already given of the extent and general face of the pariſh, it is evident, that there muſt be great diverſities of climate. This is ſo much the caſe, that in winter, people in the E. and N. ends of the pariſh are often diverting themſelves with the curling ſtone, while the farmers in the ſouth end and center are ploughing their land.——Though this may ſeem to carry in it the air of romance, this is eaſily diſpelled by this ſingle addition, that there is at leaſt an elevation of 1000 feet from the center to the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh. Notwithſtanding this diverſity of climate, there are no peculiar diſeaſes. The moſt frequent are complaints in the ſtomach, ſlow fevers, the rheumatiſm, and nervous diſorders. And theſe are more frequent in the burgh than in the country part of the pariſh. Agues ſeldom appear. The ſmall-pox formerly uſed to carry off great numbers of children, as well as of adult perſons. But the prejudices of the people againſt inoculation are now, in a great meaſure, eradicated, and this mode begins generally to be adopted and as generally with ſucceſs.

† Soon after the ordination of the preſent incumbent, he deſired the ſchoolmaſter to begin a regiſter for births, and propoſed, for his encouragement, to collect ſixpence from every parent who came to obtain baptiſm for a child. This being an innovation, the multitude diſliked it, on account of the ſixpence, and many refuſed to regiſtrate the names of their children for that reaſon. But by perſevering, and pointing out the propriety of the plan, thoſe of the eſtabliſhed church now regiſtrate univerſally. The ſeceders, however, do not inſert the names of their children in the public regiſter.

young and old.—The increaſe is evident, and muſt be attributed principally to the ſucceſs of the lead and coal mines, to pendicles of farms being ſubſet by the tenants to ſuch as are employed in leading coals to Wadlock-head, and Leadhills, and to the infant eſtabliſhment of a carpet manufactory. The ſucceſs attending the inoculation of children, and the improved mode of living and cleanlineſs among the people, are likewiſe among the cauſes of the increaſed population. The annual average of births is 50, excluſive of the populous village of Wanlock-head (which contains about the third of the inhabitants of the pariſh), and of the children of Seceders. The annual average of births in this village, and of Seceders, may at leaſt be calculated to be 20, making the ſum total of births annually in the pariſh 70.

Heritors, Rent, &c.—The whole pariſh (excepting ſome ſmall properties near the burgh) is divided betwixt the Duke of Queenſberry and Lord Elliock, the former having by far the greateſt ſhare. The total rental of the pariſh, excluſive of the burgh, ſome ſpots of land about it, and what may ariſe from Wanlock-head mines, is about L. 2500 *per annum.*

The number of ſheep is computed to be 18000 or 20000; of horſes 170; and of black cattle 760.—The ſhort black-faced ſheep, the old reſidenters of this country, are found by experience beſt ſuited to this particular diſtrict. Attempts have been made to introduce the white-faced long bodied ſheep from the eaſt country, and the Bakewell breed, but without ſucceſs. The intelligent ſtore-maſter ſaw and lamented, that though he could introduce theſe kinds of ſheep, he could not bring the ſoil and climate neceſſary to make them thrive. The common ſenſe of mankind admits this general principle, that it is contrary to the nature of every tribe of animals, to bring them from a better to a worſe ſoil. And with reſpect to the white-faced ſheep, in particular, the delicacy of their nature, the coarſe-

neſs of the paſture and the height of the walk are inſuperable difficulties to their ſucceeding, not merely in the opinion, but in the experience of the ſtore-maſters. It may with propriety be added under this head, that the rains which are drawn out of the Atlantic, being formed into clouds, and driven thus far by the W. and S. W. winds, are attracted and broken by the high hills in the pariſh. And as theſe are the points from whence the moſt frequent and the ſtrongeſt winds blow, ſo, from the elevation of the hills, there are here more frequent and heavy rains than in that part of the country which lies more towards the eaſt. Theſe heavy rains waſh off part of the ſoil, and are injurious to ſheep, in general, and particularly to the white-faced ſort, which are found from the trials that have been made, to pine away into a meagre, ſilly race, exciting the pity and diſappointing the hopes of the ſtore-maſter. And as the native ſheep of theſe high lands are in general very healthy, and fatten on their natural paſture to 10 and 12, and even 14 lb. per quarter, it is not likely that any new experiments to change them for a different breed will haſtily be made, as every experiment of this kind is attended with riſque. It is the general practice of the country to ſalve or ſmear the ſheep, which the ſtore-maſters univerſally allow both improves the quality and increaſes the quantity of the wool. It ſerves to make the wool adhere more cloſely to the body of the ſheep, and fortifies them againſt the pernicious influence of the ſtorms of the winter. It ſerves alſo as a defence againſt the attacks of vermin. When this is ommitted, as it has been, by way of experiment, with a few ſheep, in good condition and on the beſt paſture, the animals indeed ſurvived, but the wool grew ſo coarſe and ſhaggy, that it might with more propriety be called hair. The climate and height of the walk ſeem to regulate the quantity of ſalve neceſſary for the preſervation and defence of the ſheep. It is applied in larger

portions to the ſheep of this pariſh and neighbourhood than to thoſe in moſt other places, where the land lies lower, better ſheltered, and the climate warmer. It was formerly an error of the ſtore-maſters to overſtock their farms. This now begins to be rectified, though in ſome degree it ſtill prevails. It alſo begins to be the practice of ſome of theſe maſters to waſh their ſheep before ſhearing; but it is a problem not yet ſolved, whether the additional price which they receive for wool made lighter by waſhing, will be equivalent or more than what they were accuſtomed to receive for wool unwaſhed and full of ſalve. The average prices of ſheep may be thus ſtated. Three year old wedders ſell from L. 11 to L. 12 per ſcore. Heavy ewes, which generally go off in the ſpring to the vicinity of Edinburgh to be fattened for the market, from L. 8 to L. 9 per ſcore. And when they are kept to the latter end of the ſeaſon; viz. about Michaelmaſs, from L. 6 to L. 7 per ſcore. Lambs from L. 4 : 10 to L. 5 per do. The medium price of wool, for ſome years paſt, may be ſtated at L. 3 : 5s. per pack; 6, 7, or 8 fleeces go to the ſtone, and if waſhed 8 or 9 *.

Rivers,

* As the price of proviſions, eſpecially of grain, meal and potatoes, depends in a great meaſure, upon the plenty and ſcarcity of theſe articles, they are not fixed by any particular ſtandard. The price of meal is from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per ſtone Of barley from 2s. 4d. to 3s. Wincheſter buſhel. Oats from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per do. Beef and mutton, in the beginning of the ſeaſon 4d. afterwards 3½d. and 3d. per lib. Hens from 6d. to 8d. a piece; eggs from 2½d. to 3½d. per dozen. A beef cow from L. 6 to L. 7 The price varies in proportion to the fatneſs and weight.—The wages of men-ſervants about the year 1760 were L. 2 : 10s. *per annum*, and L. 3 was the maximum. The wages of female ſervants about the ſame period were L. 1 : 15s, and L. 1 : 10s. *per annum*. Now the former are from L. 7 to L. 8 and L. 9; the latter from L. 3 to L. 4 *per annum*. The wages of handycraftſmen, of every deſcription, are likewiſe increaſed in the ſame proportion. If the wages of ſervants ought to keep pace with

Rivers, and Fisheries.—The Nirth bisects the parish from the upper to the lower extremity. It runs about 18 or 20 miles before it reaches Sanquhar, takes various serpentine directions, and at last empties itself into Solway firth. It appears in dry summer weather only a small rivulet, but, when rains fall abundantly, it swells into an object of grandeur and terror, and by the rapidity of its current furiously tears up its banks, and sweeps them away. They who are situated near this river often sustain great injury from it, when in its majesty, and like an usurper, it never restores what it violently takes away. The Killo, Crawick, Yochin, Mennoch and Wanlock are rivulets of considerable magnitude. The Nith abounds in salmon, though few of them reach so high as Sanquhar, owing to the many obstructions they meet with by the way. All the rivulets yield very fine trout in the season, though not in great abundance, the Wanlock only excepted, in which no fish can live by reason of the pernicious qualities of the lead ore, which is washed in it. There are four bridges in the parish, one over the Nith, two over Mennoch, and one over Crawick.

with the influx of wealth, the improvement of land, and the introduction of manufactures, a principle which seems founded in reason and equity, and if the influx of wealth depends in a great measure on the improvements of land and the flourishing state of manufactures, there is here no just proportion betwixt the wages of servants, and these two sources of wealth; the former having risen to an enormous pitch, while the latter are only in a state of infancy. Admitting the principle, however, on the ground of equity, that servants wages ought to rise in proportion to the wealth of a country, the same principle ought certainly to extend universally to all other descriptions of men in the various departments of life. This appears necessary to the very existence and preservation of civil society, that the various orders of men may not justle one another, but keep their proper ranks.

Poor, and Schools.—The poor naturally belonging to the pariſh, who receive occaſional ſupplies, are not very numerous in proportion to the inhabitants. The number on the roll is 35. There has as yet been no occaſion for a legal aſſeſſment to ſupport them. They are maintained by the public collections at the church, by the intereſt of a ſmall fund ſaved out of the former contributions, by an annual gratuity from the Duke of Queenſberry, by money ariſing from penalties, mort-cloths, &c. The people willingly contribute to the relief of their own poor, and are by no means deficient in charity. But there is no particular diſtrict of the country more infeſted than this with ſhoals of foreign beggars. And as there is no certain criterion by which to diſtinguiſh the ſeeming from the real object of charity, it often happens that thoſe belonging to the former tribe, by ſly addreſs, and by telling ſome ſtrange tale of woe, impoſe upon the ſimple, and obtain that which ought to be applied to the relief of the native poor, and having obtained it, riot in the ſpoils. It would be worthy of the wiſdom of thoſe who ſit at the helm, and direct the police of the country, to adopt ſome effectual regulations for the ſuppreſſion of this growing evil.—There is an eſtabliſhed public ſchool in the town of Sanquhar, and, which is a ſingular felicity, furniſhed with an excellent teacher, well qualified in every reſpect, to inſtruct the youth in the art of penmanſhip, arithmetic and all the neceſſary branches of claſſical education. The ſalary and other emoluments amount to about L. 40 *per annum*. Writing and arithmetic are taught at 2s. and Latin and Greek at 2s. 6d. per quarter. The character and abilities of the teacher render Sanquhar an eligible ſpot for the education of thoſe who are deſtined to fill the higher ranks of life. Beſides the public, there is alſo in Sanquhar a private ſchool, in which reading, writing and arithmetic are taught, but it has no fixed ſalary. There are at a medium, about 60 ſcho-

lars

lars at the public, and about 30 at the private ſchool. There is likewiſe a ſchool at Wanlock-head *.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The church is remarkable for nothing but its antiquity, ſize, and diſproportion.——It is in a moſt ruinous condition. There are no records, nor ſo much as any tradition when it was firſt built. From ſome ſtones of Gothic architecture in the walls, it appears to be of remote antiquity. It is certain that it was a place for worſhip, in the times of Popery, as the choir is ſtill entire. There is a figure of a man, as large as the life, near the entrance to it, cut out in ſtone, which vulgar tradition calls the ſaint of the choir. The manſe was built about the year 1755. The Duke of Queenſberry is patron. The ſtipend is L. 105 : 11 : 1$\frac{4}{12}$ beſides the glebe.——The great extent of the pariſh renders the charge very laborious for the miniſter, and very inconvenient for a number of the people. There is an ordained clergyman who preaches and diſpenſes the ordinances of religion to the miners of Wanlock-head. The people, in general, are of the eſtabliſhed religion. There are, however, a few Seceders of the Antiburgher profeſſion in the pariſh, and fewer ſtill of the M'Millanites. The firſt have a miniſter and an houſe for worſhip in the town; the laſt have a miniſter who preaches occaſionally in the fields near Wanlock-head.

Minerals.—Coals is found in abundance in this diſtrict, and in the adjacent pariſh of Kirkconnel, which ſupplies a wide tract

* Were the appointments of ſchoolmaſters throughout the kingdom any way adequate to the importance of their truſt, there would be men of liberal education to ſuperintend the inſtruction of youth, and what would tend more than this to the civilization of ſociety, and to the forming a ſure baſis for more general reſpectability of character, eſpecially in the humbler walks of life?

tract of country. It is wrought in the Duke of Queenſberry's property. There is a fire or ſteam engine lately erected on a new conſtruction, for draining the mines, the invention of Mr. William Symington, a young man of great mechanical powers. For this engine, he has obtained a patent from government. This muſt be of ſingular advantage, as it will enable the manager of the coal works to carry on his operations to a greater extent, and will furniſh the community with the beſt coals, which are found to lie deepeſt. The ſtrata in the barony of Sanquhar are 6 miles in length, on each ſide of the Nith, and on a medium half a mile of breadth. The range of the coal ſeam is about N. W. and S. E. bounded on each ſide by the common blue rock of the country. And when clear of ſteps and dykes, which frequently occur at 30 yards diſtance, dips one foot in twelve, to the N. E. by N. The whole of the coalieries belong to his Grace the Duke of Queeſberry, excepting what are in the town commonty, and in ſome ſpots of land belonging to a few ſmall heritors in Sanquhar and its vicinity. There are about 40 people employed in the works, and for any thing known to the contrary, they have been wrought for centuries paſt, though not ſucceſsfully as of late years. The rent to his Grace does not exceed L. 50 *per annum*, but as a conſiderable quantity of coals are uſed in his mines, and in other parts of his eſtate, the tackſman is bound to ſell them at 2s. 11d. per ton, on the coal-hill. There has not yet been diſcovered more than two ſeams of workable coal, one about 4 feet thick, the other 3 feet 8 inches. In ſome places the laſt ſeam has been wrought at the depth of 23 fathoms from the ſurface; in others, not more than 14 yards, as the ſame coal is thrown up by a large dyke, which ranges S. E. and N. W. in ſome places 12, and in others 36 feet thick. It ſtands nearly perpendicular, has always a great quantity of white ſpar in it; and lead ore has been found in cutting

through

through it. This dyke may be diſtinctly traced at the ſurface for a mile in length. There are, indeed, dykes met with running in different directions, through the coal ſtrata, ſome of which are evidently formed by fire, conſiſting moſtly of vitrified matter. The ſituation of the coal on each ſide of theſe kinds of dykes, gives the ſtrongeſt reaſon to believe that they are the production of fire, for wherever the coal comes in contact with them, it is ſo much burnt and impregnated with ſulphur, as to render it uſeleſs. The other kinds of dykes that are met with appear to have been chaſms formed in the ſtrata, many of them of no inconſiderable width. They are filled with the fragments of the different ſtrata in which theſe chaſms form ſections, and with a part of the ſurface on their ſides falling in. Theſe fragments, &c. are found to be ſtrongly cemented or concreted by mineral ſubſtances, of which iron ſeems to be the principal. In lately cutting through one of theſe dykes, there was found among the cemented fragments of ſand ſtone, argillaceous rock, &c. a part of a tree which from its bark appeared to have been birch. The bark being broke, it was found, that it contained ſand ſtone. From a combination of circumſtances there is reaſon to believe, that in the long proceſs of time, the wood being entirely conſumed, while the bark was left, the water in the chaſm had conveyed into it a ſilicious ſand, which concreted in the ſhape of the tree. In beds of ſtratified matter which cover the coals, there are found various ſorts of ſea ſhells, and in ſome of the ſtrata viſible impreſſions of vegetable bodies, among which it is not unfrequent to meet with fern and other curious productions; ſome of which have been ſelected, and are preſerved in the cabinets of naturaliſts. In the mines have alſo been found ſome ſmall beds of fullers earth. Lime-ſtone was unknown in the pariſh, till very lately it has been diſcovered on the ſkirts of Auchentaggart hill. A ſmall trial has been made of it where

it

it crops out, by which the ſtratum of calcareous matter has been found, as yet, to be only about 3 feet thick, conſiſting of irregular maſſes of exceeding fine lime-ſtone, bedded in a mixture of argillaceous earth and ſhells, in which the latter predominate. Many of the ſhells are as entire as at the time when the fiſh exiſted in them. They are moſtly of the cockle ſpecies. The generality of the maſſes of lime-ſtone found in this ſtratum are of a whitiſh colour, and of a very cloſe texture. Upon the pavement of this ſtratum, however, there ſometimes occur pretty large maſſes of blue lime-ſtone, in plates of a circular form, on the ſurface of which are often found large cockles, perfectly diſtinct, and adhering firmly to the general maſs. Theſe plates of lime-ſtone ſeem to be rounded by attrition, as are alſo the angles of the whitiſh coloured lime-ſtone. The pavement of this calcareous ſtratum is a blue argillaceous rock, and the incumbent ſtratum forming its roof, is a coarſe free ſtone about 3 feet thick, which forms the pavement of a coal ſeam of good quality, only 8 inches thick. In removing a part of an argillaceous bed which forms the roof of this coal, there was found petrified wood, which from its cortaneous appearance, much reſembles broom. In the vicinity of this calcareous ſtratum, is a ſeam of coal of a ſingular kind, about 40 inches thick, (coaliers, from its giving a bright light, call it a candle coal), of a cloſs texture, which contains a conſiderable quantity of ſulphur and iron. When burnt in a common fire, it produces a much greater quantity of aſhes than common coal, and the aſhes are of a very red colour, reſembling the ochre of iron. When burnt in a furnace of conſiderable ſize, the iron melts and runs through the grate in a fluid ſtate combined with the ſulphur, and forming a kind of regulus of iron. But the ſulphureous fumes which iſſue from it in moſt furnaces are ſo deſtructive to the workmen, as to render it, in many caſes, of little conſequence.

Manufactures.

Manufactures.—Sanquhar ſeems naturally formed for the eſtabliſhment of woolen manufactures; and nothing perhaps, would more immediately conduce to the internal wealth and proſperity of this part of the kingdom. Nor is it unlikely, that the ſpirit of commerce and manufactures, which now begins to pervade the iſland, will in a ſhort time diſplay its lively and beneficial effects in this quarter. No ſituation can be more happily adopted for foſtering a ſpirit of this kind. Almoſt in the very centre of a country, the ſtaple commodities of which are ſheep and wool, touching the head of Galloway on the one hand, bordering on Airſhire, the head of Clydeſdale, and contiguous to Annandale and Tweeddale on the other. There is abundance of coal and water, ſo eſſential to the ſpirit of manufactures; an eaſy communication to Edinburgh, Dumfries and Ayr, by excellent roads, and the cheapeſt land-carriage to theſe places, perhaps in Scotland, particularly from the two former, owing to the lead exported to the one, and coal to the other. There are two different branches of carpet manufacture begun within theſe few years, and want nothing but men of property and public ſpirit to carry them forward on a large ſcale, for the benefit of this and the ſurrounding counties. Theſe two branches are eſtabliſhed on the banks of Crawick, an unrivalled ſituation, where there is plenty of water and deſcent to drive weighty machinery, if neceſſary, and in the cloſe vicinity of coal. In one of theſe branches 5 weavers are employed, 2 draw boys, and a pirn winner, 2 women twiſting yarn, and one in what is called bobbining it, after it is dyed. Theſe weavers throw off, in the courſe of one year, about 12,000 yards, the medium price of which is 2s. 5d. per yard. Beſides, this branch employs 8 weavers in town and country, for manufacturing of ſtuffs, ſerges, plaidens, flannels, &c. The other branch employs nearly the ſame number of weavers, boys and women, and the yarn is manu-

 factured

factured in the same manner. In the first branch a very important improvement is, of late, introduced; a carpet can be wrought consisting of 88 different parts, which is much more than can be done in most other places in Scotland. What can tend more directly than manufactures to raise this country to such a pitch of elevation, as, at least, to keep sight of the sister kingdom? And to see the genius, power and interest of her native sons combine in a noble effort, must warm every heart possessed of the smallest spark of patriotism *.

Miscellaneous

* The great road from Dumfries to Ayr runs through the town of Sanquhar. The late Duke of Queensberry first cut out this line of road through his estate, for, at least, the space of 22 miles, at the expence of L. 1500. He also cut out the cross road from this along the Mennoch to the utmost boundary of the country, that leads to Edinburgh, which cost L. 600. He likewise made the road leading to the lime rock at Corsoncon, which cost his Grace L. 300. These, among many other instances of his patriotic spirit, endear his memory to this part of the country, and are illustrious examples worthy the imitation of all great and good men. The road along Mennoch to Wanlock-head, being in a deep sequestered glen, in many places cut out of the rock, the bold acclivity and verdure of the hills on each side, the purling of the limpid stream below, and the music of the birds from the brushwood, render it the admiration of strangers, beautifully romantic and delightful to the traveller. The statute-labour was converted by act of Parliament at 12s. per 100 merks in 1777. Toll-bars are now erected on the road leading from Dumfries to Ayr, and its direction, in many places, has of late been altered evidently for the better, by which it is rendered more level and easy for carriages of every description. There is no doubt of the expediency and utility of turpike roads, though people habituated to antient customs dislike every kind of innovation; but by experience teaching them that a single horse can draw one third more to Dumfries than formerly, and with at least equal facility, they are not only reconciled to, but highly approve of them. There is a new line of road suggested, by a cross cut through this country to the stewartry of Kirkudbright, and from thence to Galloway; which, if carried into execution, would open a much shorter and easier communication from Ireland and that country to Edinburgh. The advantages of this are so many and obvious, as to supersede the necessity of any specification.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The people of Sanquhar enjoy a competent meaſure of the advantages of life. There is plen- of coal, of fine ſprings of water, and of lime; a ſpecies of coarſe marble, and free ſtone quarries, excellent for the purpoſes of building; a fair twice in the year, for buying and ſelling black cattle; and a market for butcher meat, throughout the year. There is a poſt office in Sanquhar, the annual revenue of which is about L. 112. There are a fulling, a corn, and two barley mills in the parſh.—The chief diſadvantage, perhaps, is the non-reſidence of the principal heritor. The whole pariſh, except the eſtate of Elliock, is naked and uninclofed. On Elliock is a fine natural wood, which fringes and adorns the banks of the Nith for two miles in length. The preſent reſpectable proprietor of that eſtate, has alſo planted a good deal of various kinds of wood, Scotch larix, and ſilver fir, New England pine, balm of Gilead fir, oak, elm, birch, beech, aſh, mountain aſh, &c. all well inclofed, and in a thriving condition. Inclofing of the arable land, would be of general advantage to the pariſh, draining the wet grounds, and planting on the ſkirts of the hills would both adorn and ſhelter the country.—The language generally ſpoken is a mixture of Scotch and Engliſh, with leſs provincial peculiarity than in moſt other counties in Scotland. The names of places ſeem almoſt univerſally derived from the Gaelic; Elliock ſignifies a little rock, Auchentaggart, Prieſt-field, &c. &c.

No part of the country can afford better entertainment to the ſportſman. There are abundance of grouſe, partidges, and ſome black game. The laſt are more rarely to be met with than formerly, owing in part, perhaps, to the woods being cut, but chiefly to the devaſtation of poachers, who favoured by a wide range of uninhabited country, load themſelves with booty, and frequently eſcape with impunity. A covey, or rather part of a covey of ptarmigans, among common grouſe, a

few years ago, was discovered upon the hills, which was considered as a curiosity. The birds of prey, of song and of the migratory species are those which are abundantly common in the south of Scotland. The bull-finch is found in Elliock woods. The wild quadrupeds, besides hares, are otters, badgers, weazels, wild cats, pole-cats, and some foxes; which last, it is said, are not so numerous as formerly, owing to the industrious exertions of the sheep farmers to exterminate this destructive race. There is only one chalybeate spring known in the parish, but its virtues have not yet been explored *.

Mr. Robert Crichton of Elliock in this parish, was a lawyer of eminence, Advocate to Queen Mary and King James VI. and a Lord of Session. He had two sons called James and Robert.

* The old castle of Sanquhar, standing a small distance south of the burgh, once the residence of the family of Crichton, deserves to be mentioned. It has been a building of considerable magnitude and extent.—It is said to have been for some time in possession of the English in the reign of Edward 1st, and to have been recaptured by Sir William Douglas of Douglasdale, who put the garrison to the sword. The whole barony belonged to the Crichtons, but the family of Queensberry having a mortgage upon some part of the estate, purchased this barony, in the latter end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th century. Prior to its being in possession of the Crichtons, it belonged to the family of Ross of Rychill. A stone was found some time ago, with the following inscription.—" Here lies the good Sir John Ross of Rychill.—Here " lies the good, good Sir John Ross.—Here also lies the good, good, good " Sir John Ross." Near the residence of the Rosses, there seems to have been a large pile of building, perhaps the Hospital of Senewar, a religious foundation, though this cannot be ascertained. Several of the stones of a Gothic figure are built into the walls and windows of the houses, where this edifice once stood. There is also a large font, or rock bason. Human bones have been found in digging and ploughing up the field in which it stands; and a key of enormous size was found, not above twenty years ago, much consumed with rust. It is now lost. Betwixt the antient seat of the Rosses and the Nith, is a large artificial mound of earth of a circular form, probably the place for the baron to hear causes, and to distribute justice.

Robert. The former went abroad when young, turned out a moſt accompliſhed character, both in learning and in all ſort of exerciſes, and was commonly known by the name of the Admirable Crichton.——The ſecond ſon, Robert, was known by the name of Sir Robert Crichton of Cluny, an eſtate his father had acquired in Perthſhire, and where he reſided. In the year 1592 he ſold Elliock to the family of Dalziel, afterwards Earls of Carnwath. The Hon. James Veitch, preſent proprietor of Elliock, is one of the ſenators of the college of juſtice.

The condition of the people, like that of others in parallel circumſtances, may be called a middle ſtate betwixt barbariſm and refinement. They have arrived at a conſiderable degree of civilization, and poſſeſs the abilities of making ſtill further improvement. They are, with a few exceptions, which are to be found in every age and in every ſociety, an induſtrious, rational and religious ſet of people, regular in attendance upon divine ordinances, and pay a proper regard to the duties of ſocial life. They are neither very rich, nor very poor, and poſſeſs a competent ſhare of the comforts, but none of the luxuries of life. It muſt, indeed, be acknowledged that the frequent colliſion of political influence in the burgh, is an enemy to their peace, and tends to relax every ſocial, moral and religious obligation, and as theſe are relaxed, corruption ſpreads its baneful influence. No doubt, the ſubſtitution of dram inſtead of ale-houſes, has the ſame pernicious tendency. The almoſt continual flux and reflux of vagrants through Sanquhar, which is a thorough-fare for both ends of the kingdom, acts alſo as a ſtrong corroſive on the morals of the people. But upon the whole, their character is reſpectable, hoſpitable to ſtrangers, humane to the diſtreſſed, active in their ſtation, decent in their apparel, and generally contented with the allotments of providence. Agriculture, and eſpecially the paſtoral life, are favourable to that integrity and ſimplicy of manners which characterize them.

NUMBER

NUMBER XLVIII.

PARISH OF CUMBERNAULD.

(PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AIR, COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM STUART.

Name, Extent, &c.

CUMBERNAULD is of Celtic derivation; *cumar an alt* in that language signifying a meeting of streams; and there is a remarkable collection of springs and streams, flowing in all directions, part running into the Forth and part into the Clyde, within the bounds of this parish, which extends 7 miles in length, and 4 in breadth. The surface has a romantic appearance, being beautifully variegated by small hills and dales. The highest part of the parish is Fanny-side-muir, a very deep moss, bearing nothing but heath, well stocked with muir-fowl. On the south side are two lochs, about a mile long, and a quarter of a mile broad. The remainder of the parish is mostly arable ground, chiefly a heavy clay, though some farms are of a light early soil; the climate is sharp and cold in the winter season, but in summer it is generally tolerably

ably agreeable, eſpecially about the village of Cumbernauld, which lies in a hollow, almoſt ſurrounded with the policy or pleaſure ground belonging to Cumbernauld houſe, a fine ſeat of Lord Elphinſtone.—This pariſh and that of Kirkintilloch formerly conſtituted one pariſh, called Lenzie.

Natural Productions.—There is abundance of coal in the north part of the pariſh, but none of it is wrought at preſent: there is alſo a good deal of peats. Seven lime quarries are wrought in different parts of the pariſh: Much of the lime is carried by the great canal to Glaſgow and other places; and there is abundance of whin, moor, and free ſtone. The chief vegetable productions are oats, a conſiderable quantity of bear, a few peaſe and beans, a good deal of flax and potatoes, a ſmall quantity of wheat, and a few turnips.

Population, Eccleſiaſtical State, &c.—According to Dr. Webſter, the total number of inhabitants in this pariſh in 1755 amounted to 2303, at preſent the number is reduced to about 1600. There are about 56 births and 14 marriages in the year. The church was built in 1659, Lord Elphinſtone is patron. In the pariſh are two meeting houſes, one of that ſect of Seceders called Burghers, the other of the Antiburghers. There is a ſchool-houſe and garden in Cumbernauld village, where above 80 ſcholars are annually educated. The funds for the maintenance of the poor ariſe chiefly from weekly collections at the church doors.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The roads are kept in repair by aſſeſſment. A new turnpike road from Edinburgh to Glaſgow was lately carried through this pariſh, paſſing by the village of Cumbernauld, near which a large commodious inn

was

was erected at the expence of L. 1000. Conſiderable remains of the celebrated Roman wall, called Graham's Dyke, are to be ſeen in the north part of the pariſh, as alſo veſtiges of the military road running parallel to it. Many curious antiquities have been found near them, particularly at Caſtlecary; and on the rock at Croyhill, the marks of fire are ſtill viſible, ſaid to have been applied by the Romans for the purpoſe of ſoftening the ſtone, which is exceſſively hard. The great canal betwixt the Forth and Clyde paſſes through the north part of the pariſh, near the dyke. In the neighbourhood of Caſtlecary is a pretty high water fall.

NUMBER

NUMBER XLIX.

PARISH OF NEW-MACHAR.

(PRESBYTERY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM SRONACH.

Name, Extent, &c.

THE antient name of this parish was the Upper Parochin of Saint Machar. In some registers it is Upper Machar; and the modern name is New Machar.——The name had its origin from St. Machar, to whom the cathedral in Old Aberdeen, or rather the kirk, called the kirk of Kirktown, where the cathedral was afterwards built, was dedicated, and this parish was part of the Deanery of St. Machar. Ramsay Bishop of Aberdeen, in 1247, appointed a chaplain and a clerk at the chapel of Monycabbuck in this parish, about a mile S. W. from the present church, to preach to the parishioners there. In the year 1639, a church was built, where the present now stands; and in year 1641, the minister at the chapel of Monycabbuck, was removed to it. There are some remains of the chapel; and the ground around it is still used for burying.——The most considerable part of this parish is in the county of Aberdeen; but about one fifth of it, called the lands

Straloch, lying N. from the church, is in the ſhire of Banff, although ſurrounded by the county of Aberdeen. About a mile from the church, theſe lands are ſeparated from the reſt of the pariſh, by the pariſhes of Udny and Fintray which meet together.——The extent of the pariſh is about 9 miles in length, and about 2½ in breadth; part of it lies on each ſide of the poſt road leading from Aberdeen to Old Meldrum.

The general appearance of the country is pretty flat. The ſoil varies in different parts. In ſome places it is moſſy, cold and wet, in others, dry, and tolerably fertile.

Climate, Diſeaſes, &c.—On account of the moſſes, and a good deal of marſhy ground, the air is frequently moiſt, but does not ſeem to be unhealthy, from many inſtances of longevity, as will afterwards appear.—This may probably be accounted for in the following manner. From the riſing ground on the E. and W. ſides of the pariſh, a ſtrong current of air blows from N. to S. or from S. to N. which has the happy effect of diſpelling the fogs and noxious vapours, which could not fail, were they not thus diſſipated, to be pernicious to the health of the inhabitants.—The moſt prevalent diſtempers for ſome years paſt, have been putrid fevers and ſore throats; owing in all probability to frequent rains, and the want of ſnow during the winter, to purify the air.

There are four mineral ſprings. The water of ſome of them upon experiment, has been found to be f a good quality. One of them is much uſed, and is found beneficial in ſcorbutic complaints.

There is a beautiful lake called Biſhop's Loch, antiently Loch Goull; within it, the Biſhops of Aberdeen had their lodging, before the chantry was erected. Upon a riſing ground within the loch, the remains of the building are ſtill to be ſeen. At the weſt end, is part of a ditch where the

draw

draw-bridge was, by which they paſſed to and from the lodging. It is ſaid that the lake was compaſſed about with tall trees, but none of them remain. The riſing ground where the lodging was, another piece of riſing ground in the E. end of the loch, and part of the circumjacent grounds are planted, by the proprietor, with thriving young trees. In the Loch is abundance of pike, but no other kind of fiſh is found in it. —There is alſo a rivulet, which has its origin about a mile above the N. end of the pariſh, runs through it ſouthward; affords as much water as ſupplies 4 corn mills; after which it falls into the river Don. There are ſome trout in it, but of a ſmall ſize.

Minerals, and Cattle.—There is a conſiderable quantity of moor, and other ſtones to be found near the ſurface of the ground, fit for building houſes, and for incloſing land, and they are in general obtained at a ſmall expence. There are alſo ſtones to be found by quarrying, but lime-ſtone is very ſcarce; and where it is found, the expence incurred by quarrying and burning is ſo high, that they who have tried it, have given it up, becauſe they can purchaſe lime at Aberdeen at a much cheaper rate *.

There are ſome cattle bred in this pariſh of a good ſize, beautiful ſhape, and conſiderable value. Of this deſcription there are however comparatively few, being in poſſeſſion of

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* In the end of November and beginning of December laſt, many of the country people obſerved very uncommon phenomena in the air, (which they call dragons), of a red fiery colour, appearing in the N. and flying rapidly towards the E. from which they concluded, and their conjectures were right, a courſe of loud winds, and boiſterous weather would follow.

The quadrupeds, are ſuch as are common to other parts of this country. Birds of the migratory kind, are the cuckow, rail, green plover, and ſwallow. They generally make their appearance in the end of March, and retire in the month of September.

the 3 reſiding heritors, and a few of their principal tenants.—These gentlemen pay particular attention to this pleaſing and advantageous object; oxen reared by them, from 4 to 8 years old, are ſold at from L. 10 to L. 17; and when fattened will draw from the butcher from L. 18 to L. 25. The cows are alſo well formed, and ſell at from L. 9 to L. 12 ſterling.—As the greateſt part of the poſſeſſions rented in this pariſh are ſmall, the tenants can neither afford to raiſe, nor ſupport cattle of this deſcription.—The high price at which veal ſells in the Aberdeen market, and the conſtant demand for that article, induces the country people to diſpoſe of their calves when 5 or 6 weeks old, by which the breed of cattle is much injured, and very few more are raiſed, than what are abſolutely neceſſary for the purpoſes of agriculture.

Population Table.

Return to Dr. Webſter in 1755 - -	1191
Number of ſouls in 1782	1000
Do. in December 1790	1030
Males - -	458
Females - -	572
Annual average of births ſince 1782 - -	20
——— of deaths, do. - - -	17
——— of marriages do. - -	12
Under 10 - -	254
From 10 to 20 -	124
From 20 to 50 -	371
From 50 to 70 -	200
Above 70 - -	81
Large farmers -	60
Average of their families	9
Blackſmiths - -	5
Weavers - -	4
Shoemakers - -	6
Wrights and millers -	12
Taylors - -	4
Of the eſtabliſhed church	1016
Seceders - -	8
Epiſcopalians - -	6
Batchelors, having houſes	6
Average number of children produced by each marriage - -	4
Uninhabited houſes -	4
Cattle - -	1200
Horſes - -	300

Sheep

Sheep - -	300
Hogs - -	20
Resident heritors -	3
Non-resident do. -	4
Chaises - -	2
Ploughs - -	68
Whereof drawn by 10 oxen each - -	3
——by 8 oxen	1
——by 4 oxen	5
——by 2 oxen and 2 horses -	3
——by 4 horses	3
Whereof drawn by 2 horses	6
——by 2 horses and 4 black cattle, some of them cows -	47

Rent per acre of the best land 13s. 4d.

——pasture land 6s. 8d.

——inferior land 3s. 6d.

Average rent of the large farms L. 25

——of farms of the second class L. 9

Produce.—Two of the farmers pay from L. 70 to L. 90 sterling of yearly rent. All the rest of the parishioners have small possessions, and, a few tradesmen and day labourers excepted, live by the plough.

The vegetables produced in the parish are natural and artificial grasses, oats, barley, pease, flax, turnips, potatoes, cabbages, kail, &c.——The parish generally supplies itself with provisions, and exports oats, barley, and a few cattle, sheep and hogs. There are not above 5 acres employed in raising flax. But from the encouragement which the trustees are giving for raising flax, and for building lint mills, it is to be hoped that this useful article will soon be more generally cultivated.——For many years, the women in this, and some other parishes in this county, have been employed in knitting stockings; but from the invention of stocking looms, the price of womens work being much reduced, they have begun to direct their attention to spinning, in which they will find their account.

Oats and pease are sown in the month of March; barley in May,

May, with which the crop graſs is generally laid down after turnips or fallow; and turnips are ſown, from the 1ſt to the 20th of June. The hay crop is cut in July; barley in the end of Auguſt, and oats and peaſe about the middle of September. —There are about 300 acres of wood, ſome of it full grown, but the greateſt part of it was planted within the laſt 30 years, and is very thriving.

Advantages and Diſadvantages, &c.—It is an advantage to the pariſh that it is ſituated within the diſtance of 10 miles from Aberdeen, where there is a conſtant demand, ready market, and a reaſonable price for every article which the farms produce.—As the brewers at Aberdeen, import a great deal of barley, the demand for that article, is by that means leſſened. —The pariſh hath the advantage of a good public road paſſing through its center, which enables the inhabitants to bring coals, &c. at a moderate expence from Aberdeen. It is alſo pretty well ſupplied with moſs, which affords peats and turfs for fuel. On the other hand, it may be mentioned, that its vicinity to the large and populous city of Aberdeen, renders every article ſold within the pariſh, very high priced to thoſe who muſt buy; and that the country people are ſo much in the way of attending the weekly market, that they generally loſe one day in the week, in order to diſpoſe of an article, which when ſold, will ſcarcely bring them 1s. 6d. never conſidering the loſs of time and labour *.

Rent,

* The common people ſpeak the Scotch language, and in what is commonly called, and well known by the name of, the Aberdonian Dialect —— Some of the names of places are ſaid to be derived from the Gaelic, although moſt have their names from local ſituation.—As *Straloch*, a ſtrath where a loch of water has been. *Cunningar*, where rabbits abounded. *Swile End*, a farm at the end of a marſh. *Highlands*, a farm on a riſing ground. *Monycabbuck*, ſaid to be a corruption of many roe-bucks, a place once frequented by deer. *Kings-Seat*, ſo called, from a large ſtone in form of a chair, where it is ſaid, one of the kings of Scotland had ſtopped on a journey.

Rent, Stipend, Poor.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 3254 Scotch; and the real rent is supposed to be L. 1500 Sterling.

The living is L. 39 : 8 : 10½ Sterling, including communion element money, 24 bolls oat meal at 8 stone per boll, 24 bolls of bear, and 13 acres of glebe including garden.

The manse was built in the year 1781. And a new church on a very good plan was erected in 1791.

The number of poor receiving alms is only 12 at present; but it may be observed that in 1782 and 83, seasons of dearth and scarcity, about 25 received quarterly supplies, besides interim supplies which were given to several poor families.—At that time the kirk session applied L. 15 Sterling of the money settled on interest for the poor, which, together with the weekly collections made at the church, was applied in purchasing pease, which were converted into meal, and distributed every week among the poor, in proportion to the numbers in their families.——They also received from government 12 bolls of pease, which were managed as above mentioned, and after that purchased 23 bolls more at a moderate price, also sent by government, which the session sold to the most indigent families, for their relief. The heritors also bought a considerable quantity of pease, for the support of their tenants, and by this means no person suffered through want.

The annual amount of collections for the poor at the church is about L. 17, and the interest of L. 75 at 4½ per cent. L. 3 : 7 : 6. making in all L. 20 : 7 : 6. *

Fuel.

* The present price of beef, veal, mutton, lamb and pork are from 3d to 4d per lb.—a pig 3s —a goose 3s.—a duck 8d.—a hen 8d.—a turkey 4s.—a pair of chickens 6d.—butter 10d per lb.—cheese 5s per stone,—barley, at an average for the last 10 years, 16s per boll; oats do. 14s,—meal, i.e. farm meal, at 8 stone per boll, 13s 4d. malt 17s 4d per boll.—Flesh, butter, and cheese are

sold

Fuel.—The fuel commonly used is peat and turf, obtained from mosses, in general within its bounds. But the mosses are greatly exhausted, and some of the gentlemen burn coals in their houses.—The expence of casting, drying, and leading peat and turf is very great, and consumes much of that time in summer, which might be profitably employed on the farm. ——Were it not for the heavy duty affecting coals brought coast ways, which keeps the price of that article high, and is a great bar to manufactures; for coals commonly sell at 4s per boll at Aberdeen in summer, and in winter at a higher price, the boll being 36 stone Amsterdam weight; it is generally believed, that families residing at such a distance as ours from a sea port, would be cheaper served with coals than the fuel commonly made use of.——The expence however of furnishing fuel, hath not been accurately ascertained *.

Condition

sold in retail, 16 lb. Amsterdam to the stone; but in wholesale they are weighed by the long hundred, 112 lb Averdupois to the cwt. or 28 lb. to the stone. Also 8 stone Amsterdam for weighing the boll of meal.

The prices of provisions in the year 1576, according to a table said to have been extracted from the records of the city of Aberdeen.—Bear and meal 10s per boll,—oats 5s. do.—marts 1l. 10s. each,—a sheep 5s.—poultry 1s. per dozen;—a swine from 7s. to 10s.—a goose 1s.—salmon 4l. per barrel—muir fowls 4s. per dozen,—capons 5s. do. All Scotch money.

A day labourer in husbandry, without victuals, receives of wages 8d. per day.—In harvest and for casting peats 1s.—a carpenter or common wright 1s.—a mason 1s. 8d.—a taylor with his victuals, 6d.

* The expence of a married labourer cannot be now exactly known, but it may be remarked, that, with the accommodation of a house, and as much ground as can maintain a cow, and raise vegetables to his family, for which he pays a moderate rent, together with his own earnings, and those of his wife, if they are sober and industrious, he is enabled to bring up a family without being a burden on the community. The incumbent cannot recollect any of this description coming upon the poor's funds, unless reduced by the unavoidable distresses of bad health, bodily infirmity, or old age.

Male

Condition of the People—The people are tolerably induſtrious. And from the ſpirit which prevails among the reſiding heritors for improving their lands, it may reaſonably be expected, that by their example, and by encouraging good tenants, they will excite a turn for induſtry among their people.

The pariſhioners are not much inclined to a military life. Only 5 have enliſted in the army, during the laſt 9 years.—Two have gone to a ſea-faring life during the ſame period.

The circumſtances of the people do not admit of their being expenſive or luxurious, nor do they ſeem to be ſo inclined.—Landed property has undergone ſome changes during the preſent century, and has generally been ſold at from 25 to 30 years purchaſe.—The people, though not in affluent circumſtances, enjoy in a reaſonable degree, the comforts and advantages of ſociety, and ſeem contented with their ſituation.

It is not eaſy to point out the beſt means by which the condition of the people could be ameliorated, although it is evident that many ſtand in need of it.—The heavy duty payable on malt, is a great bar to their comfort, and has the unhappy tendency of leading many in the lower ſtations in life to the uſe of foreign ſpirituous liquors, which are in general much adulterated, and never fail to hurt both their health and morals.—The coal tax is alſo felt, and complained of by many, as a great addition to the price of that neceſſary article.

The attention which begins to be paid by gentlemen to the improvement of their eſtates, their granting longer leaſes to their tenants, under proper conditions and reſtrictions, their emancipating them from that ſervitude, under which they in

 former

Male ſervants in huſbandry in general receive 5l per annum, including victuals and lodging,—female ſervants about 2l 10s of wages,—domeſtic ſervants from 15l to 20 ſterling, and females from 4l to 5, with the accommodation above mentioned.

former times groaned, and the satisfaction of having their rents punctually paid, will all contribute to mutual comfort and advantage, and finally, will diffuse a spirit of industry, inspire gratitude,—and give to the lower class a sort of independance natural to the creatures of God, and to free born citizens.

Roads.—During the summer, the roads are in good repair. But as the soil of which they are made, is in general of deep spouting clay, they become very bad in winter, and the number of carriages of all kinds which pass along, break them much before they attain to a proper degree of firmness.—The post road leading from south to north, was originally formed by military, and is now kept in repair by means of the statute labour, exacted in kind, *i.e.* 3 days work of each man in summer, from the age of 15 to 60 years, and 3 in autumn, but when they perform five days in summer, it is accepted in full. —The Justices of the peace within this district who take the trouble of directing the business, appoint a proper overseer to attend the labourers, who are called out to the work by an advertisement read the preceding sabbath at the different churches, by the precentor, immediately after divine service is concluded; and the person thus appointed, is authorised to accept of 3d per day, as a composition from those who do not attend.—The money thus collected from absents, is applied to the payment of men, hired at 9d per day, &c. to work upon the roads.—By men thus employed, more work is peformed, and to much better purpose than by the people who ought to do it, who in general, are not sensible of the great advantage of good roads, go to the labour with reluctance, and perform it in an aukward and slovenly manner.—There are no turnpikes; although it is thought they would be of advantage, yet it is doubtful if this part of the country could bear the expence.

Miscellaneous

Miſcellaneous Articles.—The farms of the heritors are incloſed. But the reſt of the pariſh (three farms excepted,) is open.—The people however, as they begin to have ſpots in turnips and ſown graſs, are led to ſee the neceſſity for, and benefit of, incloſures.

There is a parochial ſchool hard by the church; the ſalary and perquiſites of the ſchoolmaſter amount to about 15l per annum. The number of ſcholars is in winter about 40, in ſummer from 15 to 20.

There are ſix ale houſes, all cloſe to the road between Aberdeen and Old Meldrum, frequented by carriers and travellers, but rarely viſited by the pariſhioners.—A few years ago they frequently had malt feaſts, i. e. the farmers from whom the country brewers bought their malt or barley, convened when the price of the malt became due, and ſpent part of it very cheerfully, to encourage their cuſtomers; but this practice is now done away, as they cannot afford to brew at home, and find it cheaper to take their ale from the breweries at Aberdeen or Old Meldrum.—Thus the money ſpent in this way among themſelves in a draught of comfortable ale, is frequently laid out in the gin ſhop at Aberdeen, when the people attend the weekly market.—But this is by no means the practice of the generality, who are ſober, temperate, and decent in their behaviour.—New and elegant houſes were built within the three laſt years at Elrick and Straloch.—Theſe, with a few new farm houſes, are all the changes which have happened in this way ſince the year 1782.—The greateſt part of the farms are managed by the families of the tenants, and a few hired ſervants.

Cottagers are employed by the reſiding heritors, and a few of the principal tenants only.—Indeed it is difficult to find perſons of this deſcription as labourers within the pariſh, as in thoſe ſeaſons of the year, when they are moſt in requeſt, they

are

are generally engaged in managing their little ſpots of ground, providing fuel, &c.—On this account ſuch of the gentlemen, and even principal tenants, as have occaſion for conſtant labourers, make terms with them, when they let their ſmall poſſeſſions; and it may be obſerved, that ſuch labourers, under good maſters, live more comfortably than the middling tenants do.

The tenants in this pariſh, and the under tenants, are bound to ſome perſonal ſervices.—They are obliged to carry lime, ſand, timber and ſlates, for building and repairing the church, manſe, miniſter's offices, and the heritors houſes; and it is but fair to remark, that with ſuch diſcretion have theſe preſtations been exacted, that although the buildings already mentioned have been lately executed, the heritors have paid ſo much regard to the intereſt of their tenants, that, for their own houſes they have carried all the materials, and have paid a ſum of money to the workmen engaged for the new church, to carry all the materials wanted.—In ſome eſtates in the pariſh, the tenants are bound to two or three days in the harveſt, and ſome days at caſting and leading peats.—Some of the under tenants are bound in this way to the principal tackſmen.

There is no poſt-office within this pariſh, the neareſt to it are thoſe at Aberdeen and Old-Meldrum; the diſtance from that at Aberdeen is 10 miles, from Old-Meldrum 8. The interior parts of the country, from this circumſtance, labour under diſadvantages.

NUMBER

NUMBER L.

PARISH OF KINCARDINE.

(PRESBYTERY OF DUNBLANE, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING, COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. CHRISTOPHER TAIT.

Name, Extent, &c.

KINCARDINE is of Gaelic originial, and ſaid by ſome to ſignify the head of the ſhore, which countenances an opinion entertained by many, and ſupported by ſeveral preſumptions, that the Carſe, upon the edge of which the church ſtands, was antiently a continuation of the Firth of Forth.—The figure of the pariſh is triangular. On the S. it is divided from the pariſhes of St. Ninians, Gargunnock and Kippen, by the Forth;—on the E. and N. it is ſeparated from Lecropt and Kilmadock, by the Teath.——The extent of the pariſh, from the confluence of theſe ſtreams, to the S. W. extremity on the ſide of the Forth is reckoned to be 10 miles; and from the ſame point to the N. W. extremity on the ſide of the Teath 12 miles. The weſtern boundary, meaſures about 7 miles.——A part of the pariſh of Kilmadock, about three miles in breadth, interſects this diſtrict about half a mile weſt from the

the church, and cuts off about a mile from the west end of it *.

Kincardine is situated in the widest part of the valley called the Strath of Monteath, which is bounded in the N. and W. by a part of the Grampian mountains. Among these Ben-Lomond on the W. Ben-Lady on the N. W. Ben-Vorlich and Stoontachrone on the N. are the most conspicuous. --On the S. the valley is bounded by a chain of hills, commencing near Bannockburn, and stretching S. W. towards Dumbarton. On the E. are the Ochills, which are separated from the Grampian mountains, by Srath-Allan, and from the S. hills by the carse of Stirling, in which stand the detached rocks of Abbey craig, Stirling capped with the castle, and Craig Forth. These altogether afford such a variety of striking objects, so well disposed, as very rarely to be equalled.

There has not been any measurement made of the whole parish; but it is computed to contain somewhat more than 6000 acres. The soil is distinguished ordinarily into Carse and dry-field.—The Carse, containing about 4000 acres, lies along the Forth, and the dry-field, containing about 2000 acres, along the Teath.——Only one half of the Carse is arable, the remainder being covered by the mosses of Kincardine and Flanders. Its general appearance is that of a dead flat.——And its soil is a rich blue clay, beyond any depth that has been examined, excepting one corner, where a bed of gravel rises near the surface, as it approaches the Teath, and dips towards the Forth at the rate of one foot in the hundred.——There are many thin beds of shells, particularly of oysters, at different depths in the Carse, and one of considerable thickness at the bridge of Goody, which is in that part of Kilmadock, that intersects

* There is a chapel of ease at Norriestown for the inhabitants of this section, and for the contiguous parts of the parishes of Kilmadock and Port.

interſects this pariſh.——There are no ſtones of any kind in the ſoil of the carſe, nor are there any appearances of rock, excepting in the eminences of Craig Forth, the hill of Dript, and the Nadd, and for a ſmall extent of the bed of the river at the cruives of Craig Forth, and again at the bridge of Dript. The flatneſs of the Carſe, its being ſo little above the level of the ſea, the nature of the ſoil, which is fleech, become dry, intermixed with ſea ſhells, together with the appearance of ſome of its banks in this neighbourhood, conſiſting of ſand, in which the marks of undulations are ſtill evident wherever the ſurface is removed, render it highly probable, that the ſoil of the Carſe has been accumulated by the ſea; and that antiently the Firth of Forth has received the river twenty miles nearer its ſource, than it now does.

The dry-field riſes gently from the Carſe on one ſide, and from the Teath on the other.——The ſoil is a light loam. Many nodules of whin ſtone, and ſome few of plumbcake-ſtone, are ſtill found on the unimproved parts, and are a great obſtruction to good tillage. In the improved grounds they have been blown with powder, at a conſiderable expence, and removed.—The bottom is generally till.

It is eſtimated that more rain, by 6 inches yearly, falls here, than in the eaſt coaſts of Scotland. On the other hand, there is leſs ſnow, than in thoſe countries. The heath on the moſs of Kincardine is ſcarcely ever covered by ſnow *.

Rivers,

* Rheumatiſms prevail much among perſons of middle age, and ſtrangers are ſtill more apt to be attacked with them than the natives. Slow fevers and fluxes are frequent in the end of autumn. They ſeem to be owing chiefly to the ſuperabundance of moiſture, that proving often a very rainy ſeaſon, and they are rendered more lingering, and more infectious, by great inattention to cleanlineſs.

There are no inſtances of extraordinary longevity in the pariſh; but there are ſeveral of perſons arriving at a good age. One of the preſent Elders is 85; another

Rivers, and Fiſheries, &c.—The Goody, a ſmall river, is the only one that has its courſe through the pariſh. The Forth, before mentioned, is compaſſed of two ſtreams, that unite a little way above the bridge of Aberfoil, and form the Avondow, or black river; when it enters the pariſh of Port, it takes the name of Forth, which is ſaid to be ſynonimous with Avon. —The Teath, is alſo compoſed of two branches, which join near the village of Callander, and take the name of Teath.—— Although this name be loſt upon its junction with the Forth, the Teath is a much more beautiful river than the other, and diſcharges double the quantity of water.—The Forth and Goody are of a dark colour, with a muddy bottom; the fiſh in both are of the ſame kind, viz. pike, perch and eel.—In the Teath are ſalmon, ſea-trout, various ſpecies of freſh water trouts, muſcles and a few perch.—The ſalmon is the only fiſh carried to market, and for fiſhing which any rent is drawn, and even this is very trifling.—Their prices are regulated by thoſe of Stirling market, which are very variable, but upon the whole, are ſuppoſed to be more than double of what they were 10 years ago *.

The

another 84, and the wife of the latter 91; there is alſo a more ſingular felicity in the lot of this pair, than their long life; they have been married 58 years; their family, including children, grand children, and ſervants, conſiſts of 13 perſons; at an average, it is reckoned to have conſiſted of 10 perſons, yet, in that long period, no member of the family has died.

* Pearls are ſometimes found in the muſcles, but not in ſuch numbers, or of ſuch value, as to induce the proprietors of the water to exact a rent for the privilege of fiſhing them.——This circumſtance has perhaps contributed to prevent the fiſhing from becoming as valuable as it is capable of, for it is ſuppoſed that a conſiderable number of years are required for perfecting the pearls, but the fiſhing being free, whenever any pearls of value are found, the havock among the muſcles does not ceaſe, until they are almoſt extirpated. This was the caſe about 20 years ago, ſince which time there has been no fiſhing until very lately, when ſome pearls of a good ſize were found.

The Forth ceaſes to be navigable at the cruives of Craigforth, about 300 yards below its junction with the Teath, in conſequence of a rock ſtretching acroſs the channel, and a wall raiſed upon it to prevent ſalmon from paſſing the cruives. Below them the tide riſes five feet at high ſpring tides, but does not ſurmount the wall *.

Population.—The population of this pariſh has undergone conſiderable variations in the courſe of this century, but, upon the whole, it has increaſed conſiderably.——It is ſaid to have increaſed greatly from 1730 to 1750. From that period, to 1772, it ſeems to have decreaſed; ſince the laſt date it has acquired more than it loſt in the former periods. The increaſe of population betwixt 1730 and 1750 is attributed partly to the additions made to the villages of Thornhill and Norriestown and partly to increaſing the number of the farms, by making new ones on the out-fields, or thoſe parts of the farms that were too remote from the farm houſes for dung being carried to them, and which therefore formerly were alternately in lea, or under oats.—The decreaſe from 1750 to 1772, is imputed to the demolition of ſeveral farm houſes and cottages, in conſequence of 500 acres having been incloſed, and either kept in graſs, or in the natural poſſeſſion of the proprietor. The increaſe of the third period, is owing partly to the additions made to the villages already mentioned; but chiefly to the eſtabliſhment of the moſs tenants (or lairds as they are called) in the moſſes of Kincardine and Flanders.

By a very accurate liſt, taken in 1746, of the men from 14 years

* The following migratory birds appear here in winter; wild geeſe, and ſometimes ſwans, woodcocks, field-fares, hooded crows, ſome few of theſe breed in the low country.—Before, or during, high caſt winds in the ſpring, gulls ſometimes viſit the place for a few days. The number of wild geeſe is greatly diminiſhed ſince the moſs came to be inhabited.

years of age to 60, that were not engaged in the rebellion, their number amounted to 490. There was a garriſon kept by the rebels in Down caſtle, which is ſeparated from this pariſh only by the river Teath. This circumſtance renders it probable that the 50th man, or 10 in whole, would be engaged in the rebellion, conſequently, that the number of men then in the pariſh, above and below 60 years of age, was 500, and that the number of ſouls was 2000. The return to Dr. Webſter in 1755, however, was only 1250.—The number at preſent is 2068.

The number of baptiſms, at a medium of ſeven years from the commencement of the regiſter in 1696, was annually - - - - -	33
Of ſeven years after 1731, - - -	46
Of ſeven years after 1746, - - -	44
Of ſeven years after 1770, - - -	40
Of the ſeven years preceeding 1792, - -	48
But according to the computation of the keeper of the regiſter, there are about 6 baptiſms yearly not regiſtered, conſequently, the annual average during the laſt period is - - - - -	54
The number of pariſhioners married at an average of the three laſt years of laſt century was yearly -	13
Of 1731, —32, and —33 - - - -	23
Of 1749, —50, and —51 - - -	26
Of 1770, —71, and —72 - - - -	19
Of 1784, —85, and —86 - - - -	36

A reaſon, that may be aſſigned for the number of marriages not increaſing of late, in proportion to the ſuppoſed increaſe of population, is, that the great part of the moſs tenants were married before they ſettled in this pariſh.

The

The number of burials, at an average of ſeven years, is 12 yearly.——The number of heritors is 22; of theſe 9 reſide.

Norriestown and Thornhill are the only villages in the pariſh; they are now joined, and ſtand along the ſummit of a riſing ground, on both ſides of the road from Stirling to the fort of Innerſnaid. The inhabitants of both amount to 626. The greater part of theſe, and a few cottagers in other parts of the pariſh, are labourers or handycraftsmen.——Tanning is the only trade of any conſequence carried on in Thornhill; it does not employ above 20 hands.—There are alſo a few of the pariſhioners employed at the Adelphi cotton work, which lies in that part of Kilmadock that interſects this pariſh, and employs about 900 people. At this work, it is ſaid, the fineſt cotton yarn made in Scotland is ſpun.——There are 66 tenants, and 126 moſs tenants within the pariſh.*.

Eccleſiaſtical State, &c.—There are two clergymen, viz. the miniſter of the pariſh, and the miniſter of the Chapel of Eaſe at Norriestown.

The ſtipend of the former is L.45 in money, 16 bolls of bear, and 64 of meal. The glebe conſiſts of 5½ acres.——The fund for the maintenance of the miniſter of the Chapel of Eaſe was formed partly of contributions by the people of the diſtrict,

 for

* The number of ſtudents, particularly in divinity, was formerly very conſiderable. About 18 years ago there were 18 clergymen (including every denomination) who were natives of this pariſh. They are now reduced to 4; and there are only two ſtudents.——The great increaſe of the expence of education, and the emoluments in that profeſſion being nearly ſtationary, while, in almoſt every other line of life, they are encreaſing with aſtoniſhing rapidity, are evidently the cauſes of this alteration.—A cotton ſpinner, in the ſecond year after leaving the plough, gains annually a ſum equal to the average of the ſtipends of the church of Scotland, which are the recompence held forth for an expenſive education of fifteen years at leaſt, and for many more perhaps of expectation.

for whoſe benefit it was erected, and partly of collections made in five ſynods by the authority of the General Aſſembly 1730. This fund is under the management of the preſbytery of Dunblane, who are ſubject to the controul of the General Aſſembly. Part of the money was applied to purchaſe lands in the neighbourhood, and a part of theſe, rented formerly at L. 8 : 6 : 8 is appropriated for a glebe, and a houſe was built upon it in 1774. The preſent ſtipend is L. 30 ſterling and 40 bolls of meal or bear.——The King has preſented the preſent miniſter of the pariſh and his two immediate predeceſſors; but the patronage is ſuppoſed to be in the number of thoſe given to Mr Drummond, the repreſentative of the family of Perth, by the late act of Parliament for reſtoring the forfeited eſtates. By an act of the miniſters and heritors of thoſe pariſhes, from which the congregation at the chapel is formed, dated 1750, confirmed by the preſbytery of Dunblane and the General Aſſembly, the chaplain at Norriestown was declared to be aſſiſtant to the miniſter of Kincardine, who had alſo the power of nomination to the office given him, which was exerciſed until 1771. The General Aſſembly of that year, upon a petition of the congregation, allowed the vacancy, that had then taken place, to be ſupplied by the majority of the examinable perſons. The laſt vacancy was ſupplied in the ſame manner, with the conſent of the miniſter of Kincardine.

About a third of the pariſhioners are ſeparatiſts of different denominations; the Burgher Seceders are the moſt numerous claſs; it prevails much on the S. E. point of the pariſh, that being in the neighbourhood of Stirling, where that ſect have had their moſt numerous congregation; Ebenezer Erſkine being one of the miniſters of that town at the commencement of the Seceſſion.——The Antiburgher Seceders, and adherents of the Preſbytery of Relief are next to them in number.

There

There are a few Cameronians and ſome Epiſcopalians, and alſo 4 families of Roman Catholics who came lately from the Highlands.——The people of this pariſh are regular in performing all the external duties of religion, and are in general ſober, induſtrious, and frugal. Among ſeveral of them, however, the effects of the diſtillery of malt ſpirits, that was carried on to a great extent in Thornhill, before the act reſtricting it to ſtills of a very large capacity was paſſed, are ſtill diſcernible, in that want of veracity, and of reſpect for the law, that propenſity to intemperance, to fraud and pilfering, which the ſuperabundance of ſpirituous liquors, and the habits of defrauding Government have ſo ſtrong a tendency to produce.——The preſent law reſpecting the diſtillery, by eſtabliſhing a compoſition for the exciſe duties, has, however, very wiſely removed the temptations to fraud.

The total annual amount of the emoluments of the pariſh ſchoolmaſter does not (excluſive of a houſe and garden) exceed L. 25 ſterling.—There are beſides five private ſchools, which in winter are well attended, but in ſummer almoſt deſerted, the children being then engaged in keeping cows and other rural employments. The number of ſcholars attending them in winter exceeds 300 *.

Poor.—In 1775, in conſequence of an act of quarter ſeſſions of the country for reſtraining the poor from begging, and obliging their reſpective pariſhes to maintain them, this pariſh, with a few others in the neighbourhood, aſſeſſed themſelves for the maintenance of the poor, who had formerly been

* There is only one ale houſe in the country part of the pariſh. In Thornhill there are ſeven. They produce very pernicious effects there, as they do every where elſe, where they are kept for any other purpoſe than for the accommodation of travellers, or of people on buſineſs; eſpecially when the innkeepers are low perſons.

been in the practice of begging, and they have done so from time to time, since that period.——But at the last meeting of the heritors and the kirk-session, it was carried to drop the plan, whenever the money already levied should be exhausted, which it will in a few weeks.—The first and highest assessment was 11s. 6d. upon each hundred pound of valued rent.——The number of poor upon the roll in 1775 was 12, it has now decreased to 3.—The weekly allowance varies from 6d. to 1s. 8d. for each person.——The sessions funds (including the proportion of the collections at the chapel ordinarily given to the poor of this parish) amount to L. 24 yearly *.

Language,

* It will I believe appear singular, that a poor's rate has been established in a parish, and given up without occasioning much complaint or much hardship to the poor. It has been done perhaps a little prematurely; but things were in such a train, that a short time longer might have made them ripe for it.

As whatever tends to diminish the number of persons dependent upon public charity, promotes the prosperity of the country, sobriety, and, of course, domestic comfort, among the labouring poor, I shall mention what I think the causes of such an uncommon occurrence.

It is no doubt partly owing to the constant employment and higher wages that are given to handy craftsmen and labourers; but these circumstances, unless combined with other causes, might perhaps have produced an opposite effect.

Less money, it has been observed, is saved in general by those whose revenue is certain and unvariable, than by persons whose gains are uncertain: And high prices of labour, if proper attention be not paid to the management of the poor, has frequently the effect of heightening the poor's rates.

The labourer and mechanic, if certain of constant employment, when in health and vigour, and secure of being supported by the parish in sickness or old age, is but too apt to accustom himself to a mode of living correspondent to his wages, and when he needs supply from the parish, he expects it to be adequate to the habits of expence he has acquired, and is clamorous if he is disappointed; and the less deserving he is of favour, the more clamorous he is.—This is evidently one cause of the height of the poor's rates, where they have been

Language.—The Scotch language is ſpoken ordinarily. But as for many years paſt, a conſiderable proportion of the ſervants here have been natives of the highlands, and of late above a hundred families from theſe countries have ſettled

been long eſtabliſhed.—They being almoſt uniformly high where the price of labour is high.

While therefore the more regular employment and the higher wages, that are now given to labourers and handycraftſmen, are juſtly conſidered as the principal cauſes of the diminution of the poor; I hazard the opinion, that the ſalutary effect of theſe was owing greatly to the mode of managing their poor adopted by this pariſh.

When it was determined that the poor ſhould be reſtrained from begging, this pariſh very wiſely reſolved to preſerve the diſtinction betwixt thoſe who had begged, and thoſe who had lived at home, and received ſupply from the ſeſſion; theſe laſt being in general induſtrious, and free from the vices that prevail too often among the begging poor.

The begging poor alone were put on the pariſh fund, and previous to this being done they were obliged to give an aſſignation of all their effects to the pariſh.

The intention of this aſſignation was, not only to prevent any from pretending poverty, but alſo to put it in the power of the managers to regulate the funeral expences of ſuch of the poor as died.

People of that rank have their pride and their prejudices, as well as their ſuperiors, and it was wiſely determined to make uſe of theſe on that occaſion, and to affix ſuch a degree of diſcredit upon thoſe maintained from the poor's rate, as to prevent, as much as poſſible. the eſtabliſhment of it operating as an encouragement of idleneſs, or a want of œconomy.

The wiſdom of this management has appeared in its effects. The averſion of the poor to a funeral, from which any part of the uſual expence has been retrenched, has prevented ſeveral perſons from claiming to be put upon the roll.—The deſire of what is called a decent funeral, i. e. one to which all the inhabitants of the diſtrict are invited, and at which every part of the uſual entertainment is given, is one of the ſtrongeſt in that rank of people. The expence of it amounts nearly to 2l. This ſum therefore every perſon in mean circumſtances is anxious to lay up, and he will not ſpare it unleſs reduced to the greateſt extremity.

The

ſettled in the pariſh, principally in the moſs. The Gaelic is the only language ſpoken by ſome of the inhabitants, and many more of them underſtand it better than the Scotch.

The names of places are partly of Gaelic original, as *Tolgarth*, *Garthoch*, *Arnive*, and partly of Scotch, as Bankhead Weſtwood *.

Roads, Bridges.—Great part of the public roads have been made anew, and bridges built where wanted, within the laſt 20 years.

The bridge of Dript over the Forth, on the road to Stirling, is the only conſiderable one. It was built by ſubſcription.—The other bridges, as alſo the roads, were executed by the ſtatute labour, or by allowance from the county fund for roads and bridges.—Both are now in pretty good condition; therefore, although the quantity of carriage upon them is increaſed beyond all compariſon, there is good reaſon to conclude, that the ſtatute labour, eſpecially if compounded for at an adequate price, will be ſufficient to keep them in repair.

It does not appear that turnpikes would apply well to the roads of this pariſh; for if lime for manure was exempted from toll, the expence of collections would amount to a conſiderable ſhare of the ſum levied.

At

The ſeſſion generally allow this ſum for the funeral of ſuch of the poor as have been maintained from their fund, if the value of the effects of the deceaſed do not fall very much ſhort of it. And the deſire of ſecuring this has induced ſome, who had a large ſhare of the vices of the begging poor, and who might otherwiſe have been clamorous for a high allowance from the pariſh, to reſt ſatisfied with ſuch occaſional ſupply as the ſeſſion thought fit to give them.

* Doctor Robert Wallace, late one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, and author of the candid and ingenious eſſays on the population of antient nations, &c. ſon of Mr Matthew Wallace miniſter of this pariſh, was born here in 1696.

Henry

At any rate, as there is no great thoroughfare, that expence muſt be paid principally by this and the two adjoining pariſhes; conſequently, if the ſtatute labour ſhall be found inadequate to the ſupport of the roads, it will be wiſe in theſe pariſhes to aſſeſs themſelves, in proportion to their reſpective intereſts, in whatever ſums may be required further for this purpoſe.

The moſt obvious diſadvantage under which this pariſh, and particularly the carſe part of it, labours, is the difficulty of communication with the neighbouring country.

This is owing, on the one ſide, to the moſſes, and on the other to the want of fords in the rivers that abound in the pariſh, and the paucity of bridges over them. Another diſadvantage is, that there is no public worſhip, nor religious inſtruction in the Gaelic language, within the reach of thoſe Highlanders, that, to the number of 90 families, have lately ſettled in the moſs of Kincardine, ſeveral of whom have not ſuch a knowledge of the Engliſh as to be able to underſtand either prayers or ſermons in it.

The Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge was eſtabliſhed, principally, for communicating religious inſtruction to the Scotch highlanders, and L. 1000 is given annually by his Majeſty for the ſame purpoſe, which is under the management of the General Aſſembly. The people of this pariſh, however, have hitherto received no benefit from either of theſe funds, as an opinion prevails that, both by the rules of the Society, and the terms of the donation, the advantages of them are reſtricted to thoſe perſons ſpeaking the Gaelic language, who continue to reſide in the Highlands *.

Henry Home, Eſqr. of Kaimes, one of the ſenators of the college of juſtice, and author of many eminent works in philoſophy, criticiſm, and agriculture, was buried here in December 1782.

* An application to the ſociety by ſeventy of the families who are ſettled in the centre part of the pariſh, for a ſchoolmaſter was refuſed upon this ground.

It

Alterations.—It is the opinion of the moſt intelligent perſons of all ranks, that the population of this part of the country has increaſed greatly in the ſpace of the laſt 30 years. And that it is unqueſtionable that during the laſt 25 years the country in general, and this pariſh in particular, have made a great progreſs in wealth, in agriculture, and thoſe improvements connected with it.

The rent is increaſed at leaſt one half, and the value of land is nearly double.—One tenant beſtows as much in manure for his farm as three did at that time, and horſes and implements of huſbandry are become far more valuable.—— At that time there were only two bridges over the Forth, viz. one at Stirling, and another at Aberfoyle, now three more are built

It may be a difficult matter to effectuate an alteration of the rules of the Society, but ſurely there is reaſon to hope, that the great change in the circumſtances of the Highlands that has taken place, will either occaſion an alteration in the terms of his Majeſty's donation, or that the General Aſſembly will adhere rather to the ſpirit, than the letter of it; and now that, from the introduction of ſheep into the Highlands, and other cauſes, a great number of the native Highlanders have been removed and ſupplanted by ſouth country graziers and ſhepherds; ſuch of them as have preferred ſettling in the low country to emigrating to America, ought to be conſidered as better deſerving, as well as ſtanding more in need of relief from his Majeſty's bounty, than if they were ſtill permitted to dwell within the boundaries deſcribed in his donation. —For, when living there, however remote from their pariſh church, they were ſtill under the charge of a clergyman who underſtood their language.—But when removed to the low country, they are not only far diſtant from Gaelic places of worſhip, but they have not any clergyman that underſtands their language who is particularly intereſted in their inſtruction.

As thoſe natives of the Highlands, who have been removed to the low country, are more in need of relief from the Society, or from his Majeſty's bounty, ſo, on the other hand, the preſent inhabitants of the Highlands are far from being ſo much in need of it as their predeceſſors were.

The great extent of the Highland pariſhes, which was one reaſon for the inſtitution of the Society, and for his Majeſty's donation, no doubt remains as formerly. But the number of the pariſhioners is greatly diminiſhed.

built betwixt thefe.—Then there was only one bridge over the Forth, viz. at Down; three have been built fince that period. —During that fpace alfo the greater part of the public roads have received a better direction, and are well made, and bridges have been built over the rivulets.

Extenfive plantations have alfo been made, and one half of the parifh inclofed.—Before the period above mentioned, the greater part of the farm houfes were miferable huts built of fod, few of the holes called windows had a bit of glafs in them; and commonly there was no other partition in the houfe than that formed by two beds fet acrofs it, fo as to leave a paffage betwixt, upon which there was generally a door.—Now above three fourths of the houfes in the eaft end of the parifh are rebuilt fubftantially of ftone or brick. All have glazed windows, fome are covered with blue flates, and the offices with tile.——The houfes of one half of the mofs tenants are at prefent in a better ftate than thofe of the moft fubftantial farmers, excepting half a dozen, were formerly.—There is alfo fome improvement upon the mode of living of every rank, and a ftill greater upon their drefs.——They have become a little more attentive to cleanlinefs than they were formerly, but there is ftill too much room for improvement in this article with refpect to their perfons, and ftill more with refpect to their houfes *.

* The courfe of the Forth above Stirling was furveyed, with the view of connecting it with the Clyde. When the preference was given to the canal now executed at the mouth of the Carron, a fcheme was formed for making the Forth navigable, as far as the bridge of Gartmore, by veffels drawing only 3½ feet of water, for tranfporting, for the ufe of the country upon its banks, lime from Lord Elgin's kilns, and Aberfoil, and coals from the fide of Devon, where a canal was to be made.——The diftance from the mouth of the Forth to the bridge is 27 miles, if meafured in a ftraight line, and 49 by the courfe of the river. The tide flows to the cruives of Craigforth, diftant from the mouth

Improvements.—The mosses of Kincardine and Flanders, which cover more than 2000 acres of the Carse ground in this parish, are in a situation similar to that of the mosses of Frosk and Dunmore, betwixt the Forth and Carron. They are also evidently

mouth of the river, 7 miles measuring in a straight line, and 16 by the windings of its channel.——Vessels drawing nine feet water may in the driest seasons navigate the river, in neap tides, as far as Manour, or half the distance to Craigforth. Betwixt those two places there are some shallows, over which vessels, drawing more than five feet water, cannot pass at neap tides, when the water was low.——At the bottom of the stream, below the bridge of Gartmore, the surface of the river, when in its lowest state, is nearly 30 feet higher than that below Craigforth in neap tides.——The difference is in general much less, and especially where there is any fresh in the river. The common depth of the rivers is from 8 to 10 feet, but there are shallows in several parts of it, upon some of which there are at times only two feet of water.—From the termination of the tide-way at Criagforth, to the bottom of the stream below the bridge of Gartmore, there are only three falls perceptible in the river: One of 8 feet at Craigforth; another of 3 feet, at the ford of Frew; the third of 8½ feet, at the bridge of Cardross.—It was proposed to erect two locks, at Kildean below Craigforth, each six feet in height; to make a canal, across a peninsula, from that place to the southwest point of Craigforth hill, and to raise a dam there, four feet in height, across the channel of the river, which it was supposed would raise the surface of it nearly that height, as far as the ford of Frew.——A dam five feet high erected below the mouth of the Goody, which is below the Frew, it was supposed would make that river navigable 4 miles above Thornhill, and give dead water in the Forth, near to the head of the ford at Cardross.—Another dam and lock of the same height at that ford, it was supposed would give a sufficient depth of water near to the bridge at Gartmore, and, when there was any fresh in the river, would allow vessels to pass into the dead water above the bridge.

The expence of making this navigation in the Forth, from Kildean to the bridge of Gartmore, and in the Goody, 4 miles above Thornhill, was estimated at L. 5830 exclusive of the price of nine and a half acres of ground required for the canal at Kildean, and the temporary damage that would be sustained by as much more ground.

As the principal obstructions to the execution of this plan are greatly diminished, or no longer exist, it is to be hoped that it will be resumed.

dently of the ſame nature, and have had the ſame origin.—— Kincardine moſs is wholly in this pariſh. About 25 years ago, it conſiſted of 1800 acres. Flanders moſs is more than three times that extent. Part is in this pariſh, and part in the pariſhes of Kilmadock, Kippen, and Port.—The moſſes are evidently ſuperinduced over the ſoil of the Carſe; being ſo much above it as their own thickneſs; they are therefore not liable to be flooded by water, and, as there is only one ſpring diſcovered in them, the wetneſs is owing wholly to the qualities of the moſs or bog-earth.——All theſe have been conſidered as capable of improvement, but any progreſs made in reclaiming them was ſo ſlow, that a perſon of great property has, within theſe laſt 20 years, expreſſed frequently his wiſh, that the firſt, at leaſt, had rather been a piece of water.—— They are now, however, in higher eſtimation, in conſequence of the improvements that have been made, particularly on that of Kincardine.——There were different methods in uſe formerly for improving the moſs, which in general were confined to the ſpread-field, that is, the waſte moſs, which being unfit for peat, had been caſt behind the peat cutters, and its ſurface being ſmoothed, and drains cut in it, the peats were laid upon it to be dried.——It was already drained ſo far as to bear cattle in dry weather. Some perſons ploughed, and when it became dry, ſet fire to it. By repeating this operation, as often as their convenience or the ſeaſon permitted, ſuch a quantity of aſhes was procured, as being incorporated with the remaining bog-earth, produced a coarſe graſs.—— Where the moſs was thin, it was ſometimes conſumed ſo far by this operation, that the plough might reach the clay, in this caſe the moſs was ſaid to be gained, *i. e.* made arable.— Where the moſs was too thick to be gained by ploughing and burning, it was a common practice to carry part to the contiguous ground, which, being exhauſted by producing ſeveral

crops

crops of oats in succession, and at a distance from the dunghill, the only manure almost then used, was lying waste, or covered very thinly with grass, its natural produce. Here it was dried and burnt; and the ashes being ploughed in, the ground was cropped with oats, until it would produce no more.—A third method of reclaiming the moss was to dig ditches, or goats, as they are called, at such distances, and of such depths, that the clay dug from them was sufficient to cover the intermediate spaces of moss to the depth desired.—The clay, when dug, was thrown at such distances from the ditch, that so much moss was left on each side of it uncovered, as was thought sufficient to fill it again to a level with the bottom of the stratum of clay laid upon the surface. The first of these methods required only a little labour of the farmer and his cattle, at a time, when by the mode of husbandry then practised, there was little other employment for them.—The returns it produced were proportionably trifling, unless where the moss was so shallow as to be nearly consumed by this operation.—The second method required more labour, and produced more valuable returns, viz. three and sometimes more crops of oats; but, as the soil was touched in some degree by the moss being burnt once upon it, when the half burnt moss had been ploughed into it, it became more susceptible of damage from the fire every time the operation was repeated. And, this being the only one the farmer thought of, for making those grounds productive, it was repeated as often as he could. When long persisted in, this management reduced the surface nearly to a *caput mortuum*, for which the only remedy yet found, is by very deep ploughing, or by goating, which was described as the third method of reclaiming moss, to bring up a considerable quantity of fresh clay.—The goating of the moss was the most expensive method, but it made the most substantial improvement, especially if any considerable quantity of clay

clay was raiſed, as, in that caſe, it formed a new ſoil, which, compreſſing the moſs by its weight, its ſpunginess produced no bad effects.

Moſs improved in this manner, after producing ſome crops of grain, has continued for 40 years to be good paſturage. The graſs is coarſe indeed, but it would have been finer if due attention had been paid to keep the drains open.

As thoſe methods could be uſed to advantage on the ſpread-field only, which is about one third of the thickneſs of the moſs in its natural ſtate, conſequently no very extenſive improvements could be made by them, when ſuch were aimed at, the practice of floating off the moſs by water was adopted.

On the moſs of Kincardine alone there are 126 families, containing 640 ſouls, employed in this work.—The water is partly collected upon the moſs itſelf, and partly brought upon it, by two channels raiſed by embanking, from the dry-field which lies higher than the moſs *.

Since 1770, about 280 acres of the moſs of Kincardine have been reclaimed by the moſs tenants before mentioned, and the farmers of the contiguous grounds.

The depth of the high moſs, or that from which no peat has been cut, is from 8 to 14 feet; that of the ſpread-field is from 2 to 6 feet.—The depth of waſte moſs, which conſtitutes the principal part of the ſpread-field, is in general in the proportion of 4 to 8 of that part of the moſs which is fit for peat.—The expence of clearing an acre of the high moſs is from L. 10 to L. 12 and of the ſpread-field from L. 3 to L. 6 †.

Agriculture.

* In one inſtance, water is raiſed from the Teath to the height of 18 feet, by a Perſian wheel, and conveyed about 300 yards in a pipe of 18 inches diameter, which diſcharges it into an aqueduct that reaches the moſs at the diſtance of 800 yards.

† The encouragements given for removing the moſs are different with different

Agriculture.—About one half of the Carse is still covered by the mosses of Kincardine and Flanders before described.—The other

different proprietors. The most common method is to let a portion, commonly from 6 to 8 acres, to a moss tenant or laird, as, in contempt, he is generally stiled, for 36 years.—In money and timber for building his hut he receives from the proprietor to the amount of L. 3 or L. 4 sterling.—No rent is exacted for the first 7 years: On the eighth he pays a merk Scotch, advancing a merk each year, until the 20th year: For this, and the remaining 18 years, he pays at the rate of 12s. yearly for each acre cleared, and 2s. 6d. per acre for what is not cleared.—This last obligation is considered merely as a spur to the tenant to reclaim the ground; for the moss, in its original state, is not worth 3d. per acre.

At the end of the lease, all buildings that have been erected upon the possession belong to the proprietor; and the tenant is not entitled to any compensation for them, or his improvements.—Some proprietors, of more liberal and enlarged views, pay to the tenant from L. 3 to L. 12 for each acre reclaimed, according to the depth of the moss, or bog-earth removed from it.—In some cases, this is paid when the work is executed; in others, it is paid at the end of the lease. In the first case, the tenant pays from 12s. to 16s. of rent per acre, in the second case he pays no rent.—At whatever of these periods payment is made to the tenant, much more encouragement and ability is afforded to him, to persevere in reclaiming the ground, than is done by the terms of the leases first described.—For as a great part of the moss tenants depend upon their labour for the maintenance of themselves and their families; during the first years of their lease, when they have little ground cleared, and have their house to build, they can afford to bestow only a small part of labour towards improving their possessions, But about the 12th year of the lease, when commonly the tenant has got from two to three acres cleared, the produce thereof maintains his family, and, by the sale of his peats, he procures money for purchasing cloaths and manure, he can then bestow all his labour, not required for the culture of these three acres, in preparing his peats, and other methods of removing the moss.

Now, at this period, the ardour of the tenant, upon a lease of tenor first described, to reclaim the high moss is greatly checked.—It costs him labour worth L. 10 or L. 12 or from 17 to 20 years purchase, to clear it, and he is to possess it, free of rent, only for 6 years: Whatever part of this sum is not recovered before the end of these six years, may be considered as lost to him.

other half is employed chiefly in raiſing oats, barley and beans. These in ſome farms occupy nearly equal portions; but in general the proportion of oats is greateſt, a few peaſe are frequently mixed with the beans, and ſometimes, although rarely, they are ſown by themſelves.——Wheat, as appears from the reddenda of the abbey of Cambuſkenneth, and from ſome old rentals, had been cultivated to a greater extent, in the carſes eaſt from Stirling, antiently, than it was a few years ago.——But its culture, except on two farms, has been but lately introduced into this pariſh. This is alſo the caſe with broad clover, but both, and eſpecially the laſt, are gaining ground faſt, as every farmer has ſome acres of it for green feeding, and ſome have begun to ſow it for hay.——The whole of the dry-field almoſt is arable. Of ſuch parts of it as are let in farms, nearly three fifths are in tillage, and of this, three fourths, at an average, are employed in raiſing oats; the remainder is employed in the culture of barley, lint, and as many potatoes

him.—If this be the caſe, during the latter years of the firſt term of 19 years, only alone can prompt him to continue his operations, during the ſecond term; as he then pays, at the rate of 12s. per acre, immediately when the ground is reclaimed.—When to this rent is added, the intereſt of the money, or the value of the labour beſtowed on clearing the ground, it coſts him 22s or 24s. yearly, excluſive of the loſs of the principal. It may therefore be concluded that it is evidently againſt his intereſt upon ſuch a leaſe to employ himſelf in removing moſs, after one third of the leaſe is expired.—But, when he is paid in proportion to the quantity of ground reclaimed, it is for his intereſt to continue his operations, to the laſt hour of his leaſe, as the intereſt of the value of the labour beſtowed, in no caſe, exceeds a very moderate rent for the ground, and he receives his capital at the end of the leaſe.—It is alſo the intereſt of the landlord to give the tenant ſuch encouragement for reclaiming his ground, rather than to have it lie waſte until the end of his leaſe; for if he pay the tenant at the end of his firſt term of 19 years, he gets at leaſt 5 per cent. for his money during the remainder of the leaſe; and, at the end of the leaſe, he may be ſuppoſed to draw at leaſt 10 per cent for a poſſeſſion of that ſmall extent, with a ſuitable houſe and offices upon it.

as can ſupply the inhabitants of the pariſh. The laſt conſtitute a large proportion of the food of the families of the farmers in winter, and a ſtill larger of thoſe of the labourers and tradeſmen.——The proportion of the ground employed in raiſing oats is yearly diminiſhing.——Formerly the diſtinction betwixt infield and outfield was univerſal, and on the infield one crop of barley was followed commonly by two crops of oats. The outfield was alternately three years in ley, and three years in tillage, and oats alone were ſown on it.——But this ſlovenly method of diſtinguiſhing grounds into outfield and infield is faſt wearing out; ſome farmers have gone ſo far even as to reverſe that management which formerly was reckoned good; and inſtead of taking two crops of oats and one of barley, they take two of barley and one of oats. This can ſucceed only on ſuch grounds as are well cultivated, and where ſown graſs is introduced into the rotation.—This mode of management is after the ground has been one, two, or even three years under graſs, to lay dung on the ſurface in the beginning of winter, and plough it in immediately, harrow in ſpring, until the ground furrow is ſo much broken, that the ground appears quite ſmooth, and plough it for ſowing the barley in the beginning of May.—The produce, in this management, far ſurpaſſes any that has been known on theſe grounds, in any other mode of cropping; a field of 5¾ acres was ſown with 3¾ bolls of barley, and produced 52 bolls. The ſecond crop is oats, the third barley and graſs ſeeds.—The culture of flax was tried to ſome extent ſome years ago for ſale, but it is now confined in a great meaſure, to what is uſed in the farmer's family.—Turnips are little cultivated, although dryfield is well adapted for them, and their culture ſecures an eſſential part of good huſbandry, as ſo much rain falls ordinarily in harveſt, as will ever prevent peaſe from being cultivated to advantage.—The ſmall extent of the farms, the want of a ſufficient number of

ſubdiviſions

ſubdiviſions of the incloſures, and of a houſe for the cattle that are to be fed upon the turnips, diſtinct from the common byre, ſeem to be the chief obſtacles to their culture.—Perhaps the ſmall extent of the carſe farms is alſo an obſtacle to the production of any conſiderable quantity of wheat or hay, as alſo to the ſummer fallowing to any great extent—The ſize of the farms is ſo much adapted to the preſent cuſtom of executing all the labour in the ſpring, that the diviſion of the labour into different ſeaſons, which is one great benefit of the introduction of wheat and hay, would not enable the farmer to leſſen the number of his ſervants and horſes.—Notwithſtanding of this, however, ſummer fallowing bids fair to become a general practice in the carſe, as it is highly beneficial to a clay ſoil, and allows the lime to be applied to the beſt advantage.—Great quantities of lime for manure are brought from Sauchie, five miles diſtant from the E. point of the pariſh, and alſo from the Earl of Elgin's works on the Forth.

The price of a heaped buſhel, wheat meaſure, of ſhells, or unſlacked lime is 4d. and of the carriage to Kincardine from 2d½, to 4d.—In the dryfield 110 buſhels are allowed, at an average, to the acre. In the carſe double that quantity, and ſometimes 240 buſhels, are allowed.—The uſe of lime as a manure is of an old date here, but it was never carried to any valuable height, until in conſequence of the building of a bridge over the Forth at Dript, about 20 years ago, carts could be uſed conveniently for its carriage; before this event it was carried chiefly on horſes backs.—The demand is increaſing annually, and for ſeveral years paſt, has much exceeded the ſupply.

There is no ground almoſt kept in the carſe for paſturage, excepting what is liable to be overflowed by the rivers—This is paſtured by the milk cows, but a conſiderable part of their food even in ſummer is broad clover, given then in the byre. The horſes are fed almoſt entirely on it in ſummer, being never

ver almost allowed to pasture, excepting a little on the stubbles.

Even in the dry-field there is not much good pasturage, excepting upon the farms of a few of the more intelligent and active farmers.—The others apply such parts only of their out-field grounds to pasturage as have been exhausted by producing crops of oats, and upon which not a handful of grass seeds have been thrown, and these continuing only three years in grass, of course the crops must be very poor—It is therefore a general practice of the farmers of the dry-field, as well as of those of the carse, to send their young cattle, in summer to the hill grounds, upon both sides of the Strath, to be grazed.

The rate of pasturage varies from 3s to 7s a head, according to the goodness of the pasture, and the age of the cattle *.

The Carse farms, 24 in number, contain, 50 acres, and rent at L. 45 at an average. The farms in the dry-field, 24 in number, contain each 60 acres at an average, and the rent about 12s. per acre.—In the new leases 20s. per acre is the rent of the Carse farms, and 14s. of those of the dry-field. The rent has advanced nearly two fifths, in the course of the last 20 years.—There is a bounding fence about every farm almost in the Carse in the east part of the parish, but few are subdivided. The dry-field farms there are nearly all inclosed and subdivided.

There are few inclosures in the Carse in the west part of the parish; but a considerable part of the dry-field there is inclos-

ed

* The carse farmers keep at an average five work horses, two of which they wish to be brood mares, and each produces commonly a foal every second year. —As the horses are hard wrought, although they should escape disease or accident, they are sold commonly at the age of fifteen; therefore the farmer does not complain, although his mares should do little more than keep up his stock of horses.

Five cows are kept at an average, and the quey calves only are reared, but the farmer reckons upon selling one cow annually, and having another to become dry about mid-summer, and to be fed for a mart for the family.—The proportion of horses kept in the dryfield is less, and that of cows greater, but the œconomy is similar.

ed and ſubdivided.—Beſides the grounds now deſcribed as in the poſſeſſion of the farmers, there are about 700 acres incloſed and improved graſs ground, that are either in the natural poſſeſſion of the proprietor, or let in ſingle incloſures from year to year, at the rate of 18s. per acre, at a medium.

All the ſheep kept in the pariſh are in theſe incloſures. The ordinary mode of managing them is, to buy ewes big with young in the beginning of winter, and to ſell the lamb to the butcher, when of a proper age, and the ewe when fat*.

Miſcellaneous

* Almoſt all the labouring ſervants are unmarried, and live in the farm houſes. There are two men, a boy and a women ſervant employed by almoſt every farmer; but, if he has children grown up, they ſupply the place of ſervants. The farmer himſelf works and fares in the ſame manner nearly as his ſervants do. Commonly they all eat at the ſame table. By the farmers there are few labourers employed, except in harveſt, or the hurry of ſpring work; threſhing is performed before breakfaſt in the winter and ſpring ſeaſons, and, in the ſhort days, chiefly by candle light. All the grain, excepting a few beans, is threſhed by the time the barley is ſown.

Thirlage was formerly univerſal, for what was called grindable victual, *i. e.* for all the oats, not uſed upon the farm for ſeed or the horſes, and whatever barley or beans were conſumed in the family; but now ſeveral of the proprietors of the mills tranſact with their own tenants for exemption from thirlage. Nevertheleſs, no farmer almoſt ever ſells oats, he has them all manufactured, and ſells the meal.

The yearly wages of men ſevants from 30 to 40 years ago were L. 2 : 10; ten years later they were L. 5. Now the foreman in the Carſe has frequently L. 6 : 9. The ſecond man L. 7. Lads of ſixteen who twenty years ago got L. 2 now get L. 5. In the dry-field, the wages of men ſervants are generally 30s. lower than in the carſe. Women ſervants have L. 2 : 10 or L. 3.—The wages of labourers, 30 years ago, were 4d. per day in winter, and 5d. in ſummer: About that time they were raiſed to 5d. in winter, and 6d. in ſummer.—They were further entitled to two pecks of meal weekly at 8d. per peck, which was ſomewhat below the market price.—About 15 years ago, they received half a merk Scotch in winter, and 8d. in ſummer; now 9d. per day from Martinmas to Candlemaſs, and 1s. during the reſt of the year, and alſo victuals when cutting hay or employed in harveſt. At other times, when the labourer

Miscellaneous Observations.—It may be noticed as a defect, with respect to the interests of the country at large, in the oeconomy of the farmers of this parish and neighbourhood, that they employ only unmarried men as servants. The effect of which is, that fewer marry than would, if they had a prospect of obtaining employment, amidst their relations and companions, in that species of labour to which they have been bred, equally well after marriage as before it. And also, that, of those who marry, some leave the parish, and others become moss tenants, at the hazard of enduring greater hardships for

bourer gets victuals, 4d. per day has been in use for some time past to be deducted. Formerly this practice was reckoned favourable to the employer, but now, from the change in the way of living, it is reckoned to be rather against him.—Cutting hay costs 20d. per acre; shearing corn, 5s. 6d. per ditto—The wages of harvest work are, to men 1s. per day and victuals, to women 8d. and victuals.—The men, if engaged during the harvest, receives L. 1 : 15 if only during the time of cutting L. 1 : 8. The women get L. 1 : 1.——The wages for taylors, 25 years ago, were 2d. per day and victuals; 15 years since 4d; now 8d. and 10d. with victuals.—The wages for masons are 2s. for carpenters 18d. per day.—Cotton spinners earn from 8s. to L. 1 : 15 per week. One man, who left the plough about a year ago, earns L. 1 : 11 : 6 weekly. Women, at the cotton work, earn from 3s. to 7s. per week, children, from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week.

There are different societies formed among the workmen, each of which has a fund for the relief of the sick. Each of these societies gives 3s. per week to such of their members as are unable to work, but not confined to bed, and 6s. to such of them as are in the latter case.—The same person may be, and frequently is, a member of two of those societies, and thus receives 12s. per week in sickness.—The condition of the labourers and handycraftsmen, it may be collected from what is already said, is much improved, especially in the course of the last 12 years. They have constant employment, and their expence of living, although greater than formerly, is not increased in proportion to the advance of wages.—When in health, they maintain themselves and families in a manner, that, being compared to that to which they were accustomed in their early days, appears to them very comfortable. Few of them need any charitable supply, and some save money.

for ſome time, if they have not ſaved money, than if they left the pariſh.

The implements of huſbandry are greatly improved of late years. There are ſcarcely any of the old Scotch ploughs uſed now in the pariſh. About fourteen years ago, Small's plough was introduced among the farmers, and a factory of them eſtabliſhed within the pariſh. This has occaſioned a conſiderable diminution of the expence of the labour; before that time, there were always three or four horſes uſed in each, and of courſe a driver was employed.—Now even thoſe, who have not adopted this plough, uſe generally two horſes only, and commonly have no drivers.

One horſe carts only are uſed; two horſe carts have been tried, but have been given up from the experience, that two horſes, when each has his cart, will draw a much heavier load, than they could do, if yoked in one cart *.

Threſhing

* Thoſe who lived in parts of the country that have been long acquainted with more enlightened and more ſpirited modes of agriulture, may think themſelves authoriſed, by the circumſtances now mentioned, to conclude that this part of the country is very far behind every thing relative to huſbandry but it is merely doing juſtice to the farmers of this neighbourhood to obſerve, that, although the ſmall extent of the farms throws agriculture neceſſarily into the hands of perſons of ſmaller ſtock, and leſs enlarged views, than it is in thoſe countries where the greater extent of the farms give employment to perſons of better education, and who have opportunities of being acquainted with the improvements making in different parts; the farmers here have of late years made a very great progreſs to a better ſtile of huſbandry; and thoſe who are inclined to deſpiſe them, may find ſomething worthy of their imitation in the care they beſtow for the preſervation of their implements in huſbandry. Even the moſt inconſiderable and ſlovenly tenant has a cart or wood houſe, in which the carts, ploughs, &c. are ſtored, when not in uſe, while among the intelligent and wealthy farmers in Berwickſhire and the Lothians, few have ſuch an accommodation, and from want of it, their implements of huſbandry, purchaſed at a great expence, being expoſed, when unemployed, to all the extremes of drought and moiſture, ſuffer little leſs from this bad management, than from uſe.

Threshing machines are coming fast into use. One of these threshes eight threaves or sixteen stooks in the hour, and may be wrought by one good horse. It threshes perfectly clean, and by these means is reckoned to obtain one boll more in twenty, than is done by the flail. The expence of the machinery is less than 20l.—There are two persons employed in constructing these machines, within a mile of the place *.

About ten acres are covered with a natural oak wood. About 40 acres were begun to be planted with different species of forest trees about the year 1715. The larix has throve particularly well. Six trees of this species had been planted in 1735, in some openings that had been left in the grove, behind the house of Blairdrummond, that was planted in 1715, and they now overtop greatly all the other trees.—One of them was cut lately, it measured 66 feet in length, and contained 134 feet of wood, reckoned equally good in quality as foreign fir. The five trees remaining contain 550 feet of wood.—About 70 acres have been planted in the course of the last 25 years.

It will not be doubted that the larch occupies a considerable share. It is found to be the best method to plant it without any mixture of other trees, or at least without any dependence upon them for shelter, for, as it grows so much quicker than any, even of the fir or pine species, it is liable to bend towards the N. E. unless sheltered by others.

As

* Wheat is sown commonly in the last week of August, and the two first of September, beans sometimes in February, but generally in the last half of March, and first half of April, barley in the last week of April, and the first week of May.

The barley and wheat harvest begins ordinarily in the middle of August, and that of oats and beans about the beginning of September.

As these plantations have been made chiefly for the purpose of embellishment, they add much to the beauty of the country; they also add considerably to its value. The 30 acres of old plantation, together with the stopping trees in the lawn at Blairdrummond, have been surveyed, and the greater part of the trees measured, and they are valued at 5000l.

The valued rent of the parish is L. 4800 Scotch, and the real rent about L. 3500 Sterling.

There has been very little land sold in the parish for many years past; the price of it has been about 40 years purchase. —The price of barley at an average of 23 years, is 15s 6d per boll of Stirling measure, and the price of oat meal 14s per boll, or eight stone Dutch weight.—The price of beef and mutton in winter is 4d per lb. Dutch weight, in summer 3d, of a hen 1s, a duck 10d, a chicken 4½, milk 2d. per Scotch pint, cheese 3d per lb.—Twenty years ago, the price of beef and mutton was only 2d. or 1½ per lb. a hen cost 7d, a duck 6d. a chicken 2d.—A cart of peat costs 6d. in the moss; a cart of coals consisting of 7 or 8 cwt. costs 1s. 7d½. at Bannockburn, ten miles distant. The carriage to this place 2s. 6d. to Thornhill 3s.

NUMBER LI.

PARISH OF LIBERTON*

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

Situation, Stipend, &c.

IN this pariſh are three villages of the name of Liberton, Kirk Liberton, Nether Liberton, and Upper and Over Liberton. The former, about two miles ſouth of Edinburgh, ſituated on a riſing ſloping ground, has a noble proſpect, and is nearly in the centre of the pariſh. In this village is the church, an antient building. The patrons are the crown, and Mr. Wauchope of Niddry Marſhal, *per vices*. The ſtipend is 21 bolls 14½ pecks of wheat, 50 bolls of barley, 63 bolls of oats, and L. 23 : 11 : 3 $\frac{4}{12}$ in money. There has been no augmentation ſince the year 1700; at that time an addition was granted of L. 10, which had the appellation of prebends fee. Nothing is allowed for communion elements. The glebe is very inconſiderable, and more than half of it is almoſt a mile from the manſe. In 1630, the total of the tithes of

* Abridged from the copious account of the pariſh, by the late Rev. Thomas Whyte of Stockbriggs, publiſhed in the firſt volume of the tranſactions of the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland, page 292 to 388.

of Liberton amounted to 52 chalders, 3 bolls, and 3 firlots of victual; their real valuation at present must be ten times as much. The schoolmaster of Liberton has a salary of about 200 merks, besides 40 merks as session clerk, and 52 merks as the interest of a mortification. Besides the public, there are private schools in different places of the parish, for teaching English, arithmetic and writing.

Extent, and Population.—The parish is large, containing 62 ploughgates of land, which, at the ordinary computation of 45 acres to a ploughgate, give a total of 4140 statute acres of arable ground. It is more populous than any other country parish in the Presbytery of Edinburgh, that of St. Cuthberts excepted, containing 3457 souls, whereof 755 reside in Gilmerton. On an average of 20 years preceeding 1786, there were 130 baptised, 25 couples married, and 102 buried. For 20 years preceeding 1725, the annual average of baptisms was 117, of marriages 20 couples, and of burials 106. The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 was 2793 souls, and the inhabitants seem still to be on the increase, on account of the lime works, and the colliery at Gilmerton.

Charitable Funds.—For many years past, the collections at the church doors have amounted at a medium to L. 42 *per annum*, the mortcloths to L. 22, the rents of houses gardens and seats in the church belonging to the poor, to L. 21 : 7 : 4, amounting in whole to L. 85 : 7 : 4; all which is expended each year. Besides these, L. 5, the interest of a legacy, is yearly distributed to the distressed and languishing; and L. 40 is bestowed every Christmas, by the direction of those who have landed property, on certain poor labourers, whose work is mostly without doors, and who, on that account, may be prevented from working by the severity or in-

clemency of the ſeaſon. By the deſtination of the donor, none are to have more than L. 5 and none leſs than 50s. *per annum*. The magiſtrates of Edinburgh are truſtees of this charity, which was the donation of Commodore Alexander Horn, a native of this pariſh. In the memorably ſevere year 1783, the poor were ſupported by the accumulations of a legacy bequeathed by Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees, formerly his Majeſty's advocate for Scotland, in 1713.

Minerals, Occupations of the People.—At Gilmerton there are above 20 ſeams of coal, from 2½ to 10 feet thick; four or five of theſe ſeams are working. The lime-ſtone quarries at that place yield 70,000 bolls of lime, and employ 35 men, annually; and two other quarries, in the pariſh, have yielded above 30,000 bolls of lime *per annum*.—There is no place where the poorer ſort, who are able or inclined to work, meet with more encouragement than here. Not to mention the draw kiln at Bourdeaux; not to mention the colleries; not to mention thoſe who are employed in the public roads, or thoſe whom the farmers are obliged continually to employ, the quarries, the lime kilns, afford work to great numbers. Many alſo earn their bread by driving of carts, and they live decently, and become independent. There are no fewer than 131 perſons in the pariſh, who, with their families, depend mainly on the driving of carts. They have of late entered into a ſociety, and obſerve an annual proceſſion. There are not nearly ſo many in any other line; there being only 30 farmers, 12 ſmiths, 14 maſons, 17 weavers, and 12 taylors. A great many of the females are employed in waſhing of clothes, and find their advantage in it.

Rivulets, Rent, &c.—There are two rivulets in the pariſh, which, ſmall as they are, ſupply no leſs than eight mills, beſides

ſides the bleachfield at Peffermill. The grounds of Liberton, in general, independant of the advantages of manure from the city, are as fruitful as any in the neighbourhood. The ſituation is healthful, and many arrive to a great age.—The valuation of the pariſh, being the real rent in 1649, is L. 13,685 : 6 : 8 Scotch; the real rent at preſent amounts to L. 10,000 ſterling. The upper part of the inhabitants are ſober, regular, exemplary, and have always ſhewn a particular regard to the intereſts of the poor. The lower ſort are often noiſy and clamorous, and are rather of violent paſſions, but ſoon pacified and appeaſed. Their morals, in general, are not ſo unexceptionable as could be wiſhed; and no wonder, when they live in the neighbourhood of ſuch a city as Edinburgh.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—In this pariſh are the principal ſeats of the two oldeſt families in Mid-Lothian, the Wauchopes of Niddry Marſhall, and the Lords Somerville; the former having been ſeated here for more than 400 years, and the latter having acquired the eſtate of Drum in this pariſh in 1375, by marriage, poſſeſſes it at this day. Craigmillar Caſtle, a favorite reſidence of Queen Mary, is in this pariſh, and makes a moſt venerable appearance.

NUMBER

NUMBER LII.

PARISH OF FORFAR.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNS.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN BRUCE.

Name and Extent.

THIS parish, in all writings concerning the patronage, tithes, &c. is designed the parish of Forfar Restenet; though the latter part of the name is seldom mentioned in conversation or in common writing. Restenet was perhaps the name given to the Priory, expressive of the purpose for which it was built, namely, a safe repository for the charters, &c. of the monastery of Jedburgh; but some take its derivation from a Gaelic word, *Risk*, signifying, as they say, a bog or swamp, which indeed answers to the situation.

Forfar is conjectured to be the same with the antient Or, and the Roman Orrea, signifying a town situated on a lake, to which description it exactly answers; and the lake to which it stands, has for many ages been known by the name of Forfar.

The parish is divided into burgh and landward; whether Forfar and Restenet have some time or other been two different parishes,

parifhes, and afterwards united, is not certain; but the burgh and landward parts of the parifh have long had, and continue to have, diftinct intereftsin fo far as relates to the fupplying of the poor, and they make feparate collections for them at the church door.

The form of the parifh is irregular, its greateft extent from N. to S. being about 6 Englifh miles, and from E. to W about 5; though in fome places, it does not exceed 3 Englifh miles in breadth and 4 in length. The town in which the church and manfe are built is fituated near the N. W. corner of the parifh. The loch of Forfar, the property of the Earl of Strathmore, and a part of the parifh of Glammis, formerly wafhed the border of the minifter's glebe in that part which lies contiguous to the manfe: and the eaftmoft houfe in the parifh of Forfar in within a gun-fhot of the kirk of Refcobie.

Town of Forfar.—Forfar is a royal burgh of confiderable antiquity, and the capital of the county of Angus or Forfar; the fheriff whereof has held his court for upwards of two hundred years in this town, which is pretty centrically fituated for the adminiftration of juftice. It is alfo the feat of the prefbytery of Forfar; confifting in all of eleven parifhes, the churches of which lie around it, at, or within the diftance of four computed miles, except that of Cortachie which is rather more than five.

The ground on which it ftands, with that for a confiderable way around, is uncommonly uneven, and covered, as it were, with hillocks of various fizes, as if nature had here, at fome period, fuffered a convulfion. Though low with refpect to the circumjacent ground on every fide excepting the Weft, it is high in comparifon to the general level of the country. The lakes and fprings, a mile to the eaft of it, run eaftward and empty themfelves into the German ocean at Lunan Bay. Its own fprings, and thofe on the weft fide of it, run directly

weft

west through the fertile valley of Strathmore, till they join the Tay near Perth; and such is level of the country, that it has been thought practicable, and by some an object worthy of commercial attention, to open a communication by a canal between Forfar and the sea in either of these directions *.

Forfar commands a fine view of the Seedlaw hills and the valley of Strathmore, terminated by the Grampians on the west, the most considerable of which is about 50 miles distant. In that direction is the famous Schihallion.

Forfar is perhaps a singular instance in Scotland, of a town of any note, built at a distance from running water; but the vicinity of the lake with its numerous springs, and the protection of the castle, a place in former times of considerable strength, must have first invited the inhabitants of the country to settle and form a village, which afterwards becoming the occasional residence of Majesty, was distinguished by considerable numbers of royal favours, the memory of which is preserved in the names of places and fields within the royalty, such as the King's muir, the Queen's well, the Queen's manor, the palace-dykes, the guard-breads, &c. †

The

* A few years ago, a young gentleman belonging to the navy conducted, for a wager, a small boat all the way from the loch of Forfar by Perth to Dundee, and was obliged to leave the boat only in one or two places, where a sudden fall of the water made sailing dangerous.

† In the castle of Forfar Malcolm Canmore held his parliament in the year 1057, immediately after the recovery of his kingdom from the usurpation of Macbeth,——A figure of the castle, cut in stone, remains upon the manse and the market cross, and forms the device of the common seal of the burgh; though nothing but some rubbish remains on the spot where it stood. It is probable, the most useful stones have been from time to time abstracted for building houses; and it appears that the west entry to the old church, and a great part of the materials of the present steeple, had been taken from it. From the extent of its territory, and the names of places, it would seem

The burgh is governed by a provoſt, two bailies, and twelve common counſellors, who are elected annually by themſelves with the aſſiſtance of four deacons of crafts, who are alſo members of council, (but choſen by the members of the reſpective corporations,) and fifteen other burgeſſes nominated for the occaſion, by the retiring provoſt and bailies.—The annual council, thus conſiſting of nineteen members, have the privilege of electing a delegate, to vote for the election of one repreſentative in Parliament for the burghs of Perth, Dundee, St. Andrews, Forfar, and Cupar in Fife.—The revenue of the burgh, ariſing from lands, cuſtoms, &c. is ſuppoſed, *communibus annis*, to be little below L. 400 ſterling clear, and it is yearly increaſing.

The incorporation of ſhoemakers, which is ſtill the richeſt in the town, was, previous to the year 1745, the moſt numerous; and the wealth of the place aroſe chiefly from their in-

 duſtry

ſeem, that the community had been enriched by repeated marks of royal bounty; nor do the inhabitants ſeem to have been inſenſible to the kindneſs ſhewn them by their ſovereigns. A parliamentary ratification, dated 1669, of the Royal writ of *Novodamus*, dated 1665, proceeds upon the abſtraction of the original charters and rights of the burgh, and the plundering of the inhabitants in 1651 for their attachment to the Royal Family, and particularly on "the faithful teſtimony and diſſent "given be Alexander Strang, late Provoſt of Forfar, and commiſſioner for the "ſaid burgh, againſt paſſing of the unjuſt act of the pretendit parliament, the "16 of January 1647, entitled, Declaration of the Kingdom of Scotland "concerning his Majeſties Perſon." This act, which bears ſuch honourable teſtimony to the humanity and public virtue of the chief magiſtrate of Forfar, beſides confirming all the ancient rights and privileges of the burgh, ratifies its right to the patronage and tythes of the pariſh, diſponed by James and Sir George Fletchers of Reſtenet, and of any feus or rents payable out of the burgh acres to the priory of Reſtenet, the abbey of Coupar, and Lord Torphichen. In the year 1684, as appears from the date upon it, the market croſs was erected, it is ſaid, at the expence of the crown, and it ſtands to this day, a monument of the loyalty of Forfar, though in the eye of the police it is perhaps a nuiſance as an incumbrance on the ſtreet.

duſtry in manufacturing a peculiar fabric of ſhoes, which they ſtill carry on to a great extent, it being well adapted to the uſes of the country people, particularly in the braes of Angus. —About the year 1745 or 1746 the manufactory of Oſnaburgh was introduced here, which from very ſmall beginnings has grown into a great trade, and has become the ſtaple of the place; and the happy influence of which, particularly of late years, is viſible in the amazing increaſe of population and wealth, and the conſequent improvement of every thing.—This branch of manufacture was brought to Forfar by a gentleman ſtill living there, who has acquired by it a comfortable independence.—His brother, a weaver in or near Arbroath, (about the year 1738 or 1739) having got a ſmall quantity of flax unfit for the kind of cloth then uſually brought to market, made it into a web, and offered it to his merchant as a piece on which he thought he ſhould, and was willing to, loſe. The merchant, who had been in Germany, immediately remarked the ſimilarity between this piece of cloth and the fabric of Oſnaburgh, and urged the weaver to attempt other pieces of the ſame kind, which he reluctantly undertook. The experiment however ſucceeded to a wiſh.—Many hands were ſoon employed in the neighbourhood of Arbroath, where a Company was eſtabliſhed to promote the buſineſs, and from whence the diſcovery was brought to Forfar at the period above mentioned.—Before that time the flax was dreſſed by women; there was no cloth made at Forfar, but a few yard-wides, called Scrims; the number of incorporated weavers did not exceed 40, nor were there above 60 looms employed in the town. But in conſequence of the act for encouraging weavers, the trade increaſed ſo rapidly, that, before the year 1750, there were upwards of 140 looms going in Forfar, and at preſent there are between 400 and 500.

The knowledge of this art is ſo eaſily acquired, the call for hands

hands ſo great, that almoſt every young man here betakes himſelf to it. He receives a part of the profit of his work from the very day his apprenticeſhip begins; in a year or two he is qualified to carry on buſineſs for himſelf, and able to ſupport a family, and ſo he marries and multiplies; and this facility of acquiring a living at an early period of life is one great cauſe of the rapid increaſe of population. To this alſo it is owing, perhaps, that other profeſſions, leſs profitable and more difficult to acquire, are ſeldomer purſued by the young men of this place; and it is a fact worthy of notice, that there has not been above one or two apprentice taylors in Forfar theſe ſeven years paſt.

The Oſnaburgh trade is indeed a fluctuating one, and when the demand for that fabric ſlackens at any time, it brings many of the young and unprovident into difficulties, and oftentimes adds to the number of the poor. But when the trade is good (and it has been for ſometimes paſt more ſtable and more flouriſhing than ever it was known before), the profits of it, with the government bounty, are ſufficient to ſupport the ſober and induſtrious weaver againſt the influence of a falling market.—Manufacturers are juſt now giving from 15s. to 20s. for working the piece of ten dozen of yards, which a man of good execution will accompliſh in nearly as many days; and a man working his own web, has been known to produce 18 ſuch pieces by his own hands in the ſpace of 19 weeks.—This however is allowed by all to be extraordinary, though it ſhews what ſobriety and diligence may do.

The trade and wealth of Forfar having increaſed ſo rapidly ſince the year 1745, muſt naturally be ſuppoſed to have produced great alterations in the appearance of the place and the manners of its inhabitants. Accordingly their buildings, their expence of living, and their dreſs are almoſt totally changed ſince that period. And there is a remarkable difference, even

within these 10 years, not only in all these respects, but also in their amusements.

About and before the year 1745 there were few private houses covered with slate, and the masonry of almost all of them was of a very inferior kind; since that time almost every new house has been covered with slates of a coarse kind, of which there are plenty in quarries within the royalty, and several of the principal ones with Easdale. A thatched house is scarcely to be seen, and the masonry of such houses as have been built of late years is neat and substantial; the inhabitants appearing to have caught a new taste in building from the pattern set them in the new Town-house and new Church, which are of neat modern architecture.

Like most towns in Scotland, Forfar had been built without any regular design, as every man's fancy dictated the situation of his house; now more attention is bestowed in regulating the streets in the extended parts of the town, as well as in removing irregularities in rebuilding houses in the old-street.—There are no uninhabited houses, new ones are extending the town in almost every direction, and house rents are rather on the rise. Most of the houses built for trades-people consist of two stories, having four apartments of about 16 feet square each, one of which, with a portion of the garret, is sufficient to accommodate a weaver with his loom, his furniture and his fuel, and he pays for it, and a few feet of garden ground, from 20s. to 45s. *per annum*, according to its distance from the market-place or its other advantages or disadvantages. The weaver generally prefers the low flat for his operations, and an open exposure, if possible, to the heart of the town *.

About

* About 50 or 60 years ago there were not above 7 tea-kettles, as many hand-bellows, and as many watches in Forfar: now tea-kettles and hand-bellows are the necessary furniture of the poorest house in the parish, and almost the meanest menial servant must have his watch.

About

About 1745 the common rent of an acre of burgh land was L. 10 Scotch, including 40d. for miniſters ſtipend. An acre of the ſame land is now often let at from 50s to L. 3 *per annum*: Several of them near the town bring more than twice as much, and the whole of them have been lately found by a decreet arbitral

About the ſame period, a leg of good beef weighing 4 ſtone might have been purchaſed for 5s.; a leg of tolerable veal for 5d. the higheſt for 1s. and ſome ſo low as 2d½.; mutton from 8d. to 1s. per leg; a ſmaller ſort from the Grampians, but of excellent flavour, from 4d. to 5d. per leg. Previous to 1745 there was no meat ſold in Forfar by weight, and very ſeldom was an ox killed till the greater part of the carcaſe had been beſpoken.—A little before that two work oxen, weighing about 30 ſtone each, were ſold in one of the Forfar fairs for 50 merks Scots the head; and both the ſize of the cattle and the price of them were thought a wonder.

An ox, worth at that time about 40s. ſupplied the fleſh-market of Forfar eight days or a fortnight, except on extraordinary occaſions, from Chriſtmaſs to Lammas. Between Hallowmaſs and Chriſtmaſs, when the people laid in their winter proviſions, about 24 beeves were killed in a week; the beſt not exceeding 16 or 20 ſtone. A man who had bought a ſhillings worth of beef or an ounce of tea, would have concealed it from his neighbours like murder. Eggs were bought for 1d. per dozen, butter from 3d. to 4d. per lb. and a good hen was thought high at a groat.

The gradual advancement of population, trade, and agricultural improvement, has produced the gradual riſe in the price and conſumption of all theſe articles, which within theſe laſt twenty years are ſome of them doubled, and many of them trebled; oat meal too has riſen, but not in the ſame proportion with moſt other articles. And there are few artificers who cannot well afford to treat themſelves and their families frequently with meat and wheaten bread, conſiderable quantities of both being conſumed by them. At an average, there is not leſs than L. 50. worth of meat ſold in the fleſh market of Forfar every week throughout the year.—Good meat brings from 3d. to 4d. and ſometimes 5d. per lb. and can ſeldom be purchaſed in quantities, even at the cheapeſt periods, for leſs than 4s. per ſtone. Eggs which ten years ago ſold at 2d. per dozen are now riſen to 4d. and ſometimes 6d. Hens are from 10d to 1s. Butter from 8d. to 10d. ½ per pound of 24 ounces Engliſh——and other articles in proportion. Though this bears hard upon annuitants, yet it is univerſally allowed that labouring people purchaſe more of theſe articles now, and are better able to do it, than when proviſions were cheaper.

arbitral to be worth 25s. per acre, if let *in cumulo* for a lease of 19 years.

Clover grass-seed was first sown in one of the burgh acres about 60 years ago, and the people around run to see it as a curiosity; nor did it become general in this neighbourhood for upwards of 20 years after.

The soil of the burgh acres is of a light nature, and of no considerable depth, having in general a gravel bottom, and it has been said a thousand times, that it and the ground a considerable way round, would take a shower every day in the year without prejudice; yet, being flanked by the range of Seedlaw-hills on the south, of the Grampians on the north, the teeming clouds coming from the west with the prevailing summer-winds, often pass over and shed their fertilizing influence on the hills on either side of this tract, while every thing in the intermediate space was burning up. The soil produces excellent barley, but the oat crops in general are light and punny. The discovery of marle and the increased quantity of hot manure from the town, has improved it very much of late, and the multiplied consumption of the produce has so much excited the industry and attention of the inhabitants, that most of the old fields are in a state of high cultivation, while several extensive ones improved from barren muir produce plentiful crops. It should be observed, however, that the tacksmen of these acres are not in general able to pay the high rent which many of them do, from the produce of the ground, but one must have a cow for his family, and another a horse to carry him to a distant market or bring goods from a sea-port, and he takes a piece of ground near him and pays a premium for his convenience *.

General

* The effects of this increase of number, trade, and wealth, appear visibly also in the dress of all ranks, and even in the amusements of the more wealthy citizens. Twelve or twenty years ago, it was no uncommon thing to see the

General Character of the Inhabitants.—The general character of the inhabitants is that of induſtry and enterpriſe. As in other large aſſemblages of men, inſtances of diſſipation are not wanting, and failures among trading people now and then happen; effects, which a ſudden influx of wealth, and inexperience in the paths of extended commerce, ſeldom fail to produce and multiply; but it has been obſerved, to the honour of the merchants of Forfar, by the people from a diſtance who have had long and extenſive dealings in this country, that there is no town in Angus, where they find fewer bankruptcies and more punctual payments.

Articles of commerce are greatly more numerous within theſe few years. Wine of various ſorts, which was formerly brought from Dundee in dozens, and ſeldom uſed but as a medicine, is

the wife of a wealthy burgeſs going to church arrayed in a rich ſilk gown covered by a homely plaid; now ſilk mantles and bonnets, and faſhionable head-dreſſes are no rarities; and even the ſervant maids begin in this reſpect to ape the dreſs of their ſuperiors. Formerly a ball or ſocial dance was not thought of above once or twice in a year, and the ladies in general appeared at it dreſſed in cloſe caps like their grandmothers; for ſeveral years paſt there has been, during the winter ſeaſon, a monthly concert of Italian and Scotch muſic, performed by the gentlemen of the place, and followed by a dance, well attended, and preſenting a company of ladies and gentlemen dreſſed in the modern faſhion. Entertainments of the ſame kind are ſometimes given in ſummer; one in particular on the 19th of June, kept as an anniverſary in honour of St Margaret, Malcolm Canmore's Queen, to whoſe munificence perhaps Forfar was much indebted. Buchannan ſtyles her, "*Lectiſſima et singulari pietate Fœmina*;" and aſcribes many of the beſt acts of her huſband's reign to the influence of her piety and prudence, particularly the abrogation of Evenus' law of infamous memory. Tradition celebrates her attention to the good inſtruction of the young women in Forfar, and it is ſaid it was the law of her table, that none ſhould drink after dinner who did not wait the giving of thanks, and hence the phraſe through Scotland of the grace drink. Theſe feſtive ſcenes are in general enjoyed at little expence, and have contributed not a little to cultivate the manners, and to promote the harmony of this ſociety.

is now imported in pipes, and is a very common drink at private as well as at public entertainments. Porter, which, about 20 years ago was ſcarcely known, is now brought from London in great quantities and is becoming a common beverage with the loweſt of the people. Table-beer is ſeldom made by private families, but by the brewers in the town, who are a flouriſhing claſs of men; from 1600 to 2000 bolls of malt are conſumed annually, but the conſumpt of this article is leſſened ſince the introduction of porter.

Superfine cloths, and all kinds of cotton, cloth and many other articles formerly got from Dundee, are now to be had in plenty in many ſhops in Forfar.

Dundee is the neareſt ſea-port town, and with which Forfar has moſt frequent intercouſe, but it alſo carries on a trade with Arbroath and Montroſe.—The communication with all theſe places will be greatly facilitated when the turnpike roads leading to them are finiſhed. The turnpike act for this county commenced in June 1789, and the roads to Dundee and Arbroath are now nearly completed. Though the popular prejudice was at firſt againſt them, every one begins to ſee his intereſt in them now, ſince as much can be drawn by one horſe as could formerly have been done with two, and the toll exigible for a one horſe cart per day from Forfar to Arbroath or Dundee, is no more than 4d½. on either road. The turnpike road from Forfar to Perth is likewiſe in great forwardneſs, and will ſoon be compleated, to the general improvement of the eſtates through which it paſſes and the towns to and from which it leads.

One great drawback on the property of Forfar is the ſcarcity of fuel. Peats have indeed for ſeveral years paſt been obtained from the lands gained by draining the loch of Forfar; theſe are now nearly exhauſted, and a new moſs has been opened by the draining Loch-Reſtenet, which, in its turn, a few

few years will ſee to an end: at any rate the peats got from thence, though a convenient, are by no means a cheap article of fuel; for the poor man, could he afford the money all at once, would be much cheaper, and if cheaper he muſt be more comfortable, with coal. A conſiderable quantity of thriving firs are riſing on the town's property, and on ſome of the eſtates in the neighbourhood; but their number ſeems by no means adequate to the probable demand for firing, when the moſſes ſhall be exhauſted; ſo that the community's ſole dependence for this article, at ſome future period, will be on coal, which at preſent is obtained from Arbroath and Dundee, at a very great expence, not leſs than from 9s. to 10s. 6d. per boll of 70 ſtone Dutch. In ſome places of the ſlate quarries in this neighbourhood, ſtrata of culm-ſtone have been found, ſuch as indicate the vicinity of coal, and they excited no little expectation ſome years that this uſeful foſſil might be diſcovered here. Some feeble attempts towards a diſcovery were made by the proprietor of one of theſe quarries, and a few acres around it; but his finances were unequal to the expence, and he met with no ſupport from the public.

There are few places within the royalty, in which a quarry of ſome kind may not eaſily be found, ſo that both ſtone and ſlate are comparatively cheap; but the expence of lime and wood, neither of which can be had but from the ſea port towns or an equal diſtance, will probably continue, with the high price of fuel, to obſtruct in ſome meaſure the growing proſperity of this burgh, till wealth and the ſpirit of enterprize ſhall open a communication by water between it and the ſea.

In ſpite of theſe diſadvantages, however, Forfar is, and is likely to continue, a thriving place; ſituated in the centre of a well cultivated county, the ſeat of the court of juſtice, the members of which at a moderate computation bring L. 1500

a year to the town; the place of resort for the free-holders, not only for transacting the business of the country, but for the enjoyment of society in clubs, assemblies, &c. laying on a great road through the kingdom, and open by the turnpikes to a ready intercourse with all her neighbours, possessed also of several substantial manufactures, conducted by men of spirit and industry, who daily stretching out new paths of art and commerce, she must rise, in the nature of things, to greater eminence than she has yet attained.

Many things doubtless are necessary to the accomplishment of this desirable end. A well regulated police, and the suppression of a multiplicity of ale-houses, so dangerous to the morals of the people, are particularly requisite. The clearing and lighting of the streets, and the introduction of water in pipes, are also objects worthy of attention, to which, it is hoped, in time, the people in power well apply their care.——It is also universally allowed, that nothing can contribute more to the civil and religious interests of any society, than a sacred attention to the education of youth. And where the funds of a parish admit of it, as well as those of this district can, there ought to be at least three established schools, one for Latin-grammar, and the other learned or foreign tongues, one for English solely, and one for writing and arithmetic. There are at present two established schools in Forfar, with tolerable appointments, in each of which the master is permitted to teach all the branches of education promiscuously, a method calculated to perplex himself and obstruct the improvement of his pupils. The schools about the middle of this century were in considerable reputation; but the town for many years past has been rather unfortunate in the appointments made to these important offices. The magistrates and council have, however, of late taken such measures as it is hoped shall in future

ture ſecure the good inſtitution of youth, and raiſe the ſchools to ſome degree of celebrity *.

The church, ſituated near the centre of the town, has been rebuilt within theſe few years, on a plan calculated to contain 2000 hearers. The fabric is elegant and commodious, but diſgraced by the contiguity of the old-ſteeple and ſpire, the battlement of which it over-tops by 12 feet at leaſt.

The town houſe has alſo been lately rebuilt; the front in the market place has an agreeable effect, but the apartments for priſoners are dark, damp, and diſmal, almoſt excluded from the ſun, and the free circulation of common air; and the general utility of the whole fabric ſeems to have been ſacrificed to the attainment of one large upper room for public buſineſs and amuſement. The cupola, alſo intended for an ornament, conveys a mean idea of the genius of the architect. It is evident, alas! for the unhappy priſoner too evident, the genius of Howard ſat not at his elbow, when he meditated this wretched deſign.

The ſlaughter houſe, lately in the very centre of the town, has been very properly removed to the north ſide of it; which, beſides ridding the place of a noiſome and dangerous incumbrance, muſt contribute to the health of the inhabitants.

The air of Forfar may be ſaid in general to be ſalubrious; occaſional fogs ariſe from the lakes and low grounds in the neighbourhood, but have nothing particularly noxious in them. Epidemical diſtempers ſometimes appear, but they are not more fatal than in other neighbouring communities, and

* Within theſe few years the manſe has been repaired at a conſiderable expence at two thirds of the money which would have built a commodious one from the foundation; and yet it is a manſe ſtill ſtanding in need of repair; a proof among many of the inattention of heritors to their own intereſt. Were ſuch public works finiſhed ſubſtantially at once, they would coſt them leſs trouble and leſs expence.

and in general leſs ſo. On one occaſion the ſmall-pox carried off a great number of children, a circumſtance which may be expected ſome times to happen in places where the prejudice againſt inoculation has not ſubſided: this prejudice indeed, as well as other popular errors, daily loſſes ground; and it is to be hoped that the ſucceſs attending the practice of this important diſcovery will make univerſal converts of the riſing generation. In the caſe alluded to, the inoculated ſmall pox was introduced late in the ſpring, and children who had not been inoculated received the infection at the commencement of the ſummer months, which, happening to be warmer than uſual, aſſiſted in ſpreading the contagion. There are many active lively men in Forfar between 70 and 80 years old, ſeveral upwards of 80 years with all their faculties entire. One between 90 and 100, who is beginning to feel the infirmities of age; and there was one buried in July 1781 who had attained the age of 100 *.

Poor.—The number of poor in the town is very conſiderable; they are ſupported by money ariſing from lands purchaſed with the donations of Meſſrs Robert and William Strangs mentioned in the preceding note, about the year 1654, amounting to about L 96 yearly; and the money collected weekly at the

* Of the antiquities of Forfar little can be ſaid, as its charters have been, for upwards of a century, conſigned to oblivion by the hand of rebellion and anarchy. A few trials of thoſe unhappy women called witches, together with the bridle with which they were led to execution, are ſtill preſerved as monuments of the ſuperſtition of our fathers; and the field in which they ſuffered is pointed out to ſtrangers as a curioſity.

Among the memorials of the good, is juſtly reckoned a very large bell, ſent by Robert Strang merchant in Stockholm as a tribute of reſpect to his native place; and a table of donations to the poor, to which the ſaid Robert Strang and his brother William contributed the principal ſhare.

the church door, which with the intereſts of certain ſavings in former times of plenty, amounts to about L. 100 yearly. Out of theſe ſums, beſides a monthly diſtribution of about L. 6 or L. 7 and occaſional ſupplies in caſes of urgent neceſſity, the poor are furniſhed with ſhoes, clothing, and houſe rent.—Since the ſcarcity in the year 1783, when oat-meal was 20s. per boll, through the increaſe of the number of poor and the riſe of proviſions, the funds which before were accummulating have been ſcarcely adequate to the expenditure; and new methods are now trying to render the ſupply of the induſtrious poor more effectual, without increaſing the burden of the community. The fact ſeems to be, that over-grown charity funds, are enemies to induſtry, as they encourage the idle and improvident, to depend upon them as a ſecurity againſt want in the evening of life. And ſo they will neither work nor ſave. For many years preceding the year 1788, proviſions were more eaſily obtained by the poor, than now, by the great quantities of freſh fiſh with which the market of Forfar was ſupplied at very reaſonable prices, by carriers who gained a livelyhood by bringing them almoſt daily from the ſea-port towns. A ſupply which had its influence alſo on the price of meat. But ſince the year 1788 fiſh have been very ſcarce; the haddocks particularly have left our coaſts entirely, and one great article for the ſubſiſtance of the poor, as well as a luxury for the rich, is withdrawn.

There is a weekly market held in Forfar every Saturday; it is well attended, and a great deal of country buſineſs is tranſacted there. A branch of the Dundee Banking Company, and one of the commercial Bank Company of Aberdeen, have been eſtabliſhed here for theſe two or three years, and both have conſiderable employ *.

There

* It is a ſingular circumſtance in the hiſtory of this burgh that it obtained an

There are several well frequented fairs kept on the muir adjoining to the town; the custom of one of them was purchased some time ago from the Earl of Strathmore, and all make a considerable addition to the revenue of the burgh. From Martinmas to Candlemass there is a weekly market on Wednesday, free of custom, held on the street for the sale of fat cattle; and during the seed-time there is one weekly on the same day for the sale of work horses, all of which are well frequented, and occasion the spending a great deal of money in the town, by the country people who attend them *.

Surface, Soil, &c.—The Landward Parish presents a level prospect to the eye, intercepted only by the hill of Balnashinar directly to the south of the town, part of which is within the royalty, and from the top almost the whole parish, as well as a great extent of country beyond it, may be seen at one view. The west end of this hill is the place of execution of public justice, and it is said that it derives its name in the Gaelic, from the complaint of a Highland boy, following his grandfather, who had forfeited his life to the justice of his country.—The soil is various. To the north and south it is in general light and thin, with a gravel bottom, as in the burgh land; about the middle, from the east to west, spouty clay land.

Rivers

an act of the Scotch Parliament, in the reign of King James VI. changing its weekly market day from Sunday to Friday, At what time is was changed from Friday to Saturday, the incumbent has not been able to learn, but the reason of the change has evidently been, that Friday interfered with the great weekly market in Dundee, and that the other days in the week were kept as fair days by the other towns in the shire.

* It is perhaps proper to take notice of the inconvenience which arises to trading people, from the want of a proper and uniform standard of weights and measures. A pound of butter in Forfar is 24 English ounces; in Kirrimuir 3 miles distant it is 27 ounces, the same difference obtains in cheese, and a similar one in other articles.

Rivers and Lakes.—There are no rivers in the parifh, and fcarce any ftream that deferves the name of a burn. Two trouting-rivers Lunan and Venny, indeed take their rife in this parifh but are both inconfiderable rills in fo far as connected with it. Such is the fcarcity of water, that of 8 mills in the parifh, fix are driven by water collected from fmall fprings which in fummer do little execution, one is driven by wind, and another by a horfe.

There were before the draining, three lakes in the parifh, Forfar, Reftcnet, and Fithie; all abounding in pike, perch and eel; and fince a communication has been opened by a drain between the Loch of Forfar and the river Dean, trout of a confiderable fize are fometimes taken; but none of thefe fifh have been brought to market except eels, which fome time ago were expofed in great numbers, taken in an ark at the outlet of Loch-Reftenet.

The loch of Forfar, upwards of 20 years ago, was drained of about 16 feet perpendicular depth of water. About a mile in length and a quarter of a mile in breadth, of various depth, (from 2 to 22 feet in fummer), ftill remains. No arable land has been gained by this draining, but a very confiderable quantity of mofs and marle. A cubic yard and an half of folid mofs is fuppofed to produce a cart load of peats, valued, as they lie upon the bank, from 8d. to 1s. To this the expence of digging, drying, and leading muft be added to make the full price, and that will be little fhort of the prime coft. Thofe who dig and dry them for fale, ufually charge the people in Forfar half a crown for a fmall cart load of dried peats laid down at the door. The boll of marle, confifting of 8 cubic feet, brings 8d. to the proprietor, out of which he pays 1d. for digging or 1½d. for dragging; for they not only dig for the marle at the recovered land, but heave it from the bottom of the lake by a machine, fuch as is ufed for clearing the channel

of

of the Thames; and this operation requires the labour of three men, each of whom in good weather will make from 20d. to 2s. per day. The marle is an excellent manure for the improvement of waſte lands, and anſwers well in compoſt for moſt of the ground in this country; the rapid improvement of which is to be dated from its diſcovery. It is of two kinds, both produced from ſhells and both equally good, but differing very materially in their conſiſtency. Both of them form, in a ſhort time, a dry and apparently ſolid maſs, and one ſpecies continues ſo, though carried to a diſtance, like ſlacked lime; the other by agitation of the carriage becomes in a manner liquid, and cannot without a very cloſe cart be conveyed to any conſiderable diſtance.

The draining of the lake coſt Lord Strathmore about L. 3000, and it has yielded him from L. 500 to L. 700 *per annum*, but both the moſs and the marle are now nearly exhauſted; and ſome years hence, perhaps, the drain being neglected, the loch may again riſe to its antient boundaries *.

Loch-

* Before this loch was drained, and near the north ſide of it, there was an artificial iſland compoſed of large piles of oak and looſe ſtones, with a ſtratum of earth above, on which are planted ſome aſpin and ſloe trees, ſuppoſed to have been a place of religious retirement for Queen Margaret. This now forms a very curious peninſula. The veſtiges of a building, probably a place of worſhip, are ſtill to be ſeen. And it is likely there might be ſome accommodation too for the occaſional reſidence of the prieſt of the place, as the remains of an oven were diſcernible not many years ago, and alſo ſomething of the furniture of a pleaſure garden. It appears that the loch has at ſome period ſurrounded the riſing ground called the manor, and the adjacent hill on which the caſtle of Forfar ſtood; which hill is not, as the authors of the Encyclopedia Britannica ſuppoſe, artificial, but a congeſtum of ſand and fat clay, evidently diſpoſed in various irregular ſtrata by the hand of nature. Beſides the fiſh above mentioned, the loch is frequented by water fowl of various kinds and in the months of July and Auguſt. About ſun ſet it is infeſted, or rather fiſhers upon it are plagued, by flies of the gnat kind, which faſten in great numbers on every part of their clothes, and leaving their ſkins, fly off ſportive as from

Loch Reſtenet, the property of George Dempſter Eſq. of Dunnichen, has been lately drained. The extent of ground recovered does not exceed 200 acres, yet the value of the moſs and marle has been computed at above L. 50,000. Indeed the marle is ſuppoſed to be inexhauſtible. Upon the S. W. ſide of this lake, and almoſt ſurrounded by it, ſtood the priory and the pariſh church, the ruins of which ſtill remain. There is alſo ſtanding in a pretty entire ſtate, a very neat ſteeple and ſpire built of ſtone and run-lime with a ſort of fineering of poliſhed aſher. This is ſaid to have been a dependency of the monaſtery of Jedburgh, where their valuable papers and effects were kept, as a place of ſafety from the depredations of the Engliſh borderers*.

Loch-Fithie, a little to the S. of Loch-Reſtenet, a beautiful little ſheet of water is alſo the property of George Dempſter Eſq.—It has little, if any, either of moſs or marle in it, but abounds in pike and perch. It is about a mile in circumference, of various breadths, and ſurrounded by a beautiful riſing bank, which conceals the proſpect of the lake till one comes juſt upon it, and heightens the delight of the wanderer with unexpected pleaſure. The banks are adorned with common firs, larch and ſpruce trees, in ſome places agreeably intermixed and well ſtocked with ſinging birds. Every thing in this ſpot con-

from a priſon. The incumbent has often returned home, covered with their *ſpolia opima*, after receiving no little entertainment from obſerving their method of diſengaging themſelves, which overbalanced the annoyance received from their buzzing.

* In this neighbourhood, and probably in the adjoining muir, in which there are the veſtiges of a camp by ſome ſuppoſed to be Roman, Buchanan relates, that a bloody but indeciſive battle was fought, about the year 830, between Feredith the Pictiſh Uſurper, and Alpin King of the Scotch. Several large ſtones, ſuch as are uſually found in Scotland commemorative of ſimilar events, are ſtill ſtanding, though without any inſcription, not far from the ſuppoſed field of battle.

pires to form a pleaſing retreat for the contemplative or the gay. Its worthy owner has lately erected a handſome cottage after an Eaſt-Indian model, for the enjoyment of a ſummer-day with his friends.

Woods, Rent, &c.—On ſeveral eſtates in the pariſh, as well as on the property of the burgh, are thriving plantations of fir from 20 to 30 years old, and it is generally ſuppoſed that an acre of thriving fir trees 30 years old, would bring its proprietor at leaſt 20s. for every year of its growth, after paying all expences. This is certainly turning waſte lands (and ſuch in general are the lands on which fir thrive beſt here) to very good account; beſides that by the annual ſhedding of the leaves the ſoil is enriched, and rendered fitter for the purpoſes of agriculture when the woods are cut down.—There are 10 heritors in the pariſh, of whom 4 reſide; and there is beſides a ſmall eſtate belonging to the poor of the burgh. The valued rent of the whole pariſh is L. 2587: 19 Scotch, and the real rent is probably about as much ſterling *.

There are 3 large farms which bring about L. 200 of rent and upwards, three that give about L. 100, 11 or 12 from L. 40 to L. 100 and the reſt are ſmall poſſeſſions occupied in general by weavers and other artiſts; for weavers in the country part of the pariſh, as well as in the town, form the moſt conſiderable body of labourers. A weaver in the country, in general, has as much land as will maintain a cow or two, and ſometimes a horſe, throughout the year; and on moſt eſtates in the pariſh, are little villages peopled chiefly by tenants of this deſcription, who join their horſes together to form a plough.

* There is a conſiderable part of the landward pariſh actually within the royalty, the property of the community or of individuals who have feued from it, and conſequently not comprehended in the above ſtatement and valuation of the county lands.

plough. The number of weavers in the country in 1791 was 155.

The mode of cultivation after ley is, in general, 1ſt, a crop of oats; 2dly, lint or oats; 3dly, barley with dung; 4thly, turnips or ſome other green crop; and 5thly, barley with graſs ſeeds, which remain four or five years under hay and paſture. This practice differs, however, with ſoil and ſeaſon and other circumſtances, and can hardly be obſerved by the tackſmen of ſmall pendicles, though every one of them has a part of his ſmall poſſeſſion in graſs, turnips and potatoes, which laſt is much cultivated throughout all the pariſh, and forms an excellent ſuccedaneum for meal and a ſtanding diſh on the tables of the rich and the poor.

The lands in general will yield from the fifth to the ſeventh return. Harveſt is ſeldom reaped within three months after ſowing, and in ſome years, particularly in the ſouth part of the pariſh, which is very wet, it is much later. Agriculture, however, in its improvements, is keeping pace in this part of the country with manufactures. The fields are regularly laid out, incloſures are multiplying, and rents are double and treble what they were twenty or thirty years ago. One farm in particular, which let for a leaſe of 30 years at about L. 50, has lately been let at between L. 300 and L. 400, and is ſtill thought a good bargain *.

* On ſome of the eſtates in the pariſh, the exaction of bondage-ſervice is ſtill in uſe; and beſides the ſtipulated rent in money or grain, ſome tenants pay poultry and pigs, and muſt leave their own work at the landlord's call, to aſſiſt in ploughing, harrowing, cutting the corn, caſting peats, driving coal and other errands and carriages, in hay time and harveſt, and at any other time of the year. This is indeed agreeable to bargain, and the number of theſe ſervices is uſually ſpecified and valued in the leaſes; but they are generally as unpopular as impolitic, and accordingly begin to be omitted in new contracts of leaſe. Mill thirlage alſo exiſts in this pariſh and is conſidered as a grievance.

About 60 years ago, a principal farm ſervant might have been had for 35s.

or

Population Table.

Number of souls in 1755,	2450	Total in the country	1174
——— in 1781,	3800	Families do. -	269
——— in 1790,	4625	Males 8 years old and upwards - -	473
——— in 1791,	4712	Females, do - -	463
——— in 1792,	4756	In 1792, within the royalty * - -	3800
Examinable persons in the burgh in 1790	2667	Of these, examinable	2925
Under 8 years age, do.	785	——— under 8 years of age - -	875
Total in the burgh	3452	In the landward, in 1792	956
Families, do. -	983	Of these, examinable	765
Males 8 years old and upwards - -	1252	——— under 8 years of age - -	191
Females do. -	1415	Examinable persons in communion with the established	
Examinable persons in the country part, in 1790,	936		
Under 8 years of age, do.	238		

or 40s. the half year, and a woman for 40d. besides her harvest fee. Now many men servants receive L. 12 sterling *per annum*, and few or none less than L. 7; and women servants have from L. 3 to L. 4 a year with a lippie of lint ground, or some equivalent called *bounties*. A man for the harvest demanded formerly half a guinea, now he asks from 30s. to 40s, and is sometimes intreated to take more. A female shearer formerly received from 8s. to 10s. now 20s. and upwards. Male servants in agriculture, besides their wages, get victuals, or two pecks of meal a-week in lieu thereof, with milk which they call sap. Cottars generaly receive from L. 3 to L. 7 a year, with a house and garden, and maintenance of a cow throughout the year. On this scanty provision they live comfortably, and raise numerous families without burdening the public. A family of nine children has been reared by a labourer of this description without any public aid. The cottar eats at his master's table, or has meal in lieu of this advantage. From 20 to 30s a year are given to a boy, from 10 to 14 years of age, to tend the cattle or to drive the plough.

* A considerable part of what is called the country parish is actually within the royalty; and there are some houses supposed to be in town, which are built on county lands.

eſtabliſhed church, at Whitſunday 1790, about - -	3213	Examinable perſons of the Epiſcopal perſuaſion about - -	240
Annual number of communicants about	1800	Do. of the Seceſſion about	150

	Baptiſed.	Married.	Buried.
In 1660,	41	26	—
In 1755,	68	—	51
In 1782,	141	43	81
In 1789,	143	45	51
In 1790,	147	34	107*

From the preceding ſtatement of the population, it would appear that Forfar ought to be a collegiate charge.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The poor in the country pariſh are few, only about 8 or 10 very old or diſeaſed individuals claim the aid of the funds, and they are well ſupplied at their houſes out of the weekly collections at the church, and the intereſt of accumulated collections in former years of plenty.—They have alſo a few acres of land, purchaſed by ſuch contributions, as a reſerve againſt years of ſcarcity. All the above amount to more than L. 40 ſterling. There is not a beggar in the country pariſh, and only about five or ſix belonging to the town, who are furniſhed by the kirk treaſurer with a permiſſion-ticket, to diſtinguiſh them from ſtrangers and vagrants.

About half a century ago the population of the town and country pariſh ſeems to have been nearly equal, the diſproportion between them now will appear from the foregoing table. —There has been little alteration in the number of landward pariſhioners ſince the year 1781, though during that period there

* The great increaſe of burials in 1790, was occaſioned by the ravages of the ſmall-pox.

there is an addition of near 1000 inhabitants to the town. The chief cauſes of this increaſe have been already pointed out.

The inhabitants of both town and country ſhare alike the praiſe of induſtry, economy, and hoſpitality. If fewer inſtances of intemperance, impurity, and prodigality appear in the country than in the town in proportion to the number in each, it is perhaps chiefly, becauſe ſimplicity of manners is leſs liable to corruption in the former than in the latter, from a multiplicity of low ale-houſes, theſe ſeminaries of impiety and diſſipation.—The farmers and manufacturers in the former, however, have experienced a change in their dreſs and expenditure as perceptible as what has taken place among the inhabitants of the burgh.

The pariſhioners are in general attached to the religious eſtabliſhment of the kingdom. A ſmall ſociety of Epiſcopalians and another of Seceders form the ſum of the ſectaries.—A ſpirit of enquiry and a taſte for reading is ſpringing up, and popular ſuperſtitions begin to hide their heads. The ſubſcriptions to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Bee, and ſeveral periodical and other publications, ſcientific, religious, moral and political, are more numerous of late than could well have been expected; and they already ſhed an evident luſtre on the converſation of many.

The preſbytery of Forfar was disjoined from Dundee by an act of the provincial ſynod of Angus and Mearns, dated Arbroath, 17th April 1717, and the members held their firſt meeting by appointment at Forfar on 1ſt May following.

The ſtipend, as augmented in 1785, is L. 84 : 15 : 9d$\frac{5}{12}$ in money, and 31 bolls 2 pecks of meal, making, at the ordinary converſion, L. 100 neat, L. 5 for communion element money, with a houſe and garden, and a glebe conſiſting of about 7 acres.—The new church was opened for public worſhip on the 9th day of January 1791.——The oldeſt date upon the manſe is 1619.

NUMBER

NUMBER LIII.

PARISH OF HADDINGTON.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE.)

By the Rev. DR. GEORGE BARCLAY OF MIDDLETON*.

Extent and Population.

HADDINGTON, the county town of Eaſt Lothian, is ſituated about 17 miles eaſt from Edinburgh, and is the firſt ſtage on the great poſt road from thence to London. The word Haddington ſeems evidently to be of Saxon origin. The greateſt extent of the pariſh is 6 miles from E. to W. and about the ſame length from S. to N. The river Tyne runs through it from E. to W. and nearly divides it into two equal parts. It contains about 12,000 acres of land, and 3915 inhabitants; of theſe 2055 reſide in the burgh of Haddington, 512 in the ſuburbs called Nungate and Giffordgate, and 1348 in the country. The pariſh was more populous about the end of laſt

* This account is abridged from a very complete, intelligent, and ſatisfactory hiſtory of Haddington pariſh, publiſhed in the firſt volume of the Tranſactions of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland, page 40. Some additional obſervations, communicated by the ſame author, are incorporated with the original account.

laſt century than at preſent. It appears from the regiſter of baptiſms, that the number of births, taking them at an average for 7 years preceeding 1684, amounted annually to 199, which ſuppoſes a population of about 6000 inhabitants. This decline of population is chiefly to be aſcribed to the engroſſing of farms, for it is an undoubted fact that the inhabitants of the town have increaſed within the laſt 40 years. The return to Dr. Webſter in 1755, however, amounting only to 3975 ſouls, it would appear, that the total decreaſe, ſince that period, has not been conſiderable. It is farther to be remarked, that in 1692 the pariſh of Gladſmuir was erected, which was made up of lands taken from the pariſhes of Haddington, Tranent, and Aberlady, and that the lands taken from Haddington now contains from 500 to 600 ſouls.

Soil, Rent, &c.—The weſtern part of the pariſh conſiſts of a large tract of muiriſh ground of about 1000 acres, called Gladſmuir, formerly poſſeſſed by the burgh as a commonty. The rulers of the burgh were adviſed about 60 years ago to incloſe and plant it, and had they done ſo it muſt have yielded a conſiderable revenue; but inſtead of complying with this advice, it was feued out in ſmall parcels to favourite citizens, who after all were generally loſers by their grants; for after expending a good deal of money in incloſing, liming &c. the lands for the moſt part proved ſterile and unproductive. On the failure of the original feuars, great part of the commonty has been acquired by Mr. Buchan of Letham, who has planted many acres of it with oak, fir, birch, &c. which are in general in a thriving condition, and in a few years will be of great value. The barony of Byres has always been eſteemed one of the fineſt eſtates of its extent in the whole county, it pertained for many centuries to a noble family of the name of Lindſay, anceſtors to the preſent Earl of Crawford, from whom it was acquired about

about the beginning of the laſt century by the Earl of Haddington, and is now the property of the Earl of Hopetoun. The Park of Leithington contains about 400 acres, formerly ſurrounded with a ſtone wall 12 feet in height, the work of John Duke of Lauderdale; and was occaſioned by the Duke of York telling him before his firſt journey to Scotland, that he heard there was not ſo much as a park in Scotland; a few years ago Lord Blantyre reduced the height to ſeven feet. Amisfield parks contain about 700 acres, and are eſteemed the beſt paſture grounds in the county.

The whole of the pariſh is arable, except a few hundred acres of the ſummit of the ridge called Garleton-hills, and about the ſame extent of woodlands on Gladſmuir and the eſtate of Coalſtown. So extenſive a tract as this pariſh, muſt naturally be ſuppoſed to be compoſed of a variety of different ſoils, which is the caſe. The whole diſtrict, however, is in a ſtate of high cultivation, and all incloſed, except a few fields in the neighbourhood of the burgh, which being either burgage lands, or let by the neighbouring heritors to labourers and other poor people, are ſometimes managed in a very ſlovenly manner. There are 109 ploughgates of land in the pariſh, divided into 30 farms. The valued rent is L. 14,645 Scotch, and the real rent, including the lands in the natural poſſeſſion of the proprietors, above L. 8000 ſterling. Lands near the town are generally rented at L. 3 to 50s. per acre, whilſt others of equal quality, at the diſtance of two miles from the burgh, do not fetch a third part of that rent. The price of proviſions is nearly the ſame as in Edinburgh, and the price of labour juſt the ſame as in the neighbourhood of that city. The air is temperate and ſerene, conſequently healthful; inſtances of longevity are frequently to be met with. A very extraordinary inſtance occured in one family, Mr. Alexander Maitland and Catharine Cunningham were married Auguſt 6th 1657.

The ages of nine of the children of the marriage amounted to no less than 738 years. Another thing remarkable of this marriage is, that the 18th year of it produced trines, and the 21st twins. The ages of the trines amounted to 256. The fact is ascertained beyond all possibility of doubt, for it was communicated to the writer of this account by Mr Robert Keith, a gentleman of the strictest probity, and himself son to one of the trines.

Town.—Haddington is undoubtedly a burgh of great antiquity, for in a charter of Ada widow of Prince Henry, son of David I. foundress of the abbey, she stiles Haddington *meum burgum*; it is governed by a provost, two merchant bailies, one trades bailie, a dean of guild, a treasurer, eleven merchant counsellors, one trades counsellor, and seven deacons of crafts. The revenues of the town amount to about L. 400 per annum, arising chiefly from the rent of the mills, petty customs, feu duties of Gladsmuir, &c. The town consists of four steeets, intersecting each other nearly at right angles; the only public buildings belonging to the burgh of any consequence, are the town house and school house, the former built from a design of the late William Adam, Esq. in 1748, and the latter, which is large and commodious, contains excellent accomodation for boarders. There are two fairs held annually, one in July, and one in October, but neither of them are much frequented. There is also a weekly market held on Friday, reckoned the greatest in Scotland for all kinds of grain *. For several centuries past, a species of coarse woolens have been manufactured here, and many weavers, particularly in the Nungate, still make them; but the number of persons employed in this branch is greatly diminished of late. During

* See the fiars of East Lothian, since 1627, Transactions of the Antiquarian Society, vol. 1st, page 91, 92, 93, 94, 95.

During the time of Cromwell's uſurpation, an Engliſh Company, of which Colonel Stanfield was the principal perſon expended a very conſiderable ſum of money in eſtabliſhing a manufactory of fine woollen cloaths. For this purpoſe, they purchaſed ſome lands formerly belonging to the monaſtery of Haddington, erected fulling mills, dying houſes, &c. and called the name of the place New-mills. After the reſtoration, by ſeveral Scotch acts of parliament, the Company, for their encouragement, were exempted from ſome taxes, and Colonel Stanfield had the honour of knighthood conferred on him. After his death the manufactory declined, and the affairs of the Company going into diſorder, Colonel Charteris purchaſed their lands and houſes, and changed the name from Newmills to Amisfield, in honour of the very antient family in Nithſdale, of which he was deſcended. A Company was eſtabliſhed in 1750 for carrying on the woollen manufactory, and a large ſum was ſubſcribed; but the trade proving unſucceſsful, the Company diſſolved, and a new one formed, which alſo in its turn was diſſolved a few years ago.

Religious Houſes.—The abbey of Haddington was ſituated about a mile to the eaſtward of the burgh, where there is ſtill a little village called the abbey, but the monaſtery itſelf is almoſt entirely demoliſhed. It was founded A. D. 1178, by Ada mother of Malcolm IV. and William the Lion, kings of Scotland, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The foundreſs and others enriched it with many temporal lands, teinds, and other benefactions. The revenues at the time of the Reformation, as appears from many charters, as likewiſe from the books of aſſumption in the Advocates Library, were very conſiderable. It was ſoon after erected into a Lordſhip, in favour of John Maſter of Lauderdale. It was at this abbey that parliament was conveened July 7th 1548, during the ſiege of

Haddington,

Haddington, which gave conſent to Queen Mary's marriage with the Dauphin, and her education at the court of France.

The pariſh church is a large and venerable ſtructure; it was formerly the church of the Franciſcan monaſtery; from the ſtile of architecture, it appears to have been built in the 12th, or 13th century. Only the weſtern part is uſed for public worſhip; the remainder of the fabric is unroofed, and going faſt to ruin. The patronage of this collegiate charge is in the Earl of Hopetoun.—In the town is a very elegant chapel, for thoſe of the Epiſcopal communion, built A. D. 1765, to which the preſent Earl of Wemyſs was a very liberal ſubſcriber, having contributed in all about L. 400, nearly one half of the expence of the building.

Haddington has ſuffered frequently from fire, and from the inundations of the Tyne, which in Octr. 4. 1775, roſe 17 feet perpendicular, continued in this ſtate ſeveral hours, and then gradually ſubſided. The manſion houſe of Clerkington, and the beautiful Chineſe bridge over the river were immediately ſwept away. The whole ſuburb of Nungate, and more than half of the town were laid under water. The inhabitants were obliged to abandon their houſes, and take ſanctuary in the fields. Had it happened in the night time, many muſt have periſhed; but happily no lives were loſt. This inundation was owing to the burſting of a water ſpout on Lammer muir, for the day was not very rainy.

Stipends.—The ſtipend of the 1ſt miniſter is 48 bolls of wheat, 48 bolls of barley. and L. 41 : 15 : 5d. Sterling of money, including L. 8 : 6 : 8d. for communion elements. The ſtipend of the ſecond miniſter is 16 bolls of wheat, 32 bolls of barley, and L. 50 Sterling of money. Both miniſters have manſes and glebes, but the firſt miniſter's glebe is but a very ſmall one, amounting only to three acres and a half.

Schools.

Schools.—There is no legal parochial ſchool. The ſalaries of the teachers of public grammar, and Engliſh ſchools in Haddington, are paid wholly by the town council out of the revenue of the burgh. The ſalary of the rector of the grammar ſchool is 400 merks Scots; and the ſalary of the maſter of the Engliſh ſchool, to which the office of muſic maſter is conjoined, is about L. 15 Sterling.

State of the Poor.—The money expended for the maintenance of the poor is under the management of a committee of 11; conſiſting of the two miniſters, 3 choſen annually by the heritors, 3 by the town council, and 3 by the kirk ſeſſion. The money required for this purpoſe, amounted about 40 years ago, only to about L. 100 Sterling annually, of which the heritors of the landward pariſh gave L. 40 Sterling, the burgh L. 30 Sterling, and the kirk ſeſſion L. 30; but the expence has been ſince gradually increaſing, and amounted laſt year (1791) to above L. 270 Sterling. The number of weekly penſioners is about 130, beſides many others who receive occaſional charity from the kirk ſeſſion.

The increaſe of the number of poor in this place, is in a great degree owing to the prevailing cuſtom amongſt the heritors and farmers in the county preſerving no cottagers, unleſs ſuch as are abſolutely neceſſary for perſons employed in cultivating their farms; this drives many of the aged and infirm into town, where, after a few years reſidence, they claim a legal maintenance. If the number of perſons who reſort to this county from the Highlands as reapers, continues to diminiſh in the ſame proportion as it has done for ſeveral years paſt, our landholders and farmers will feel the baneful effects of this piece of œconomy, when it is too late.

Roads.

Roads.—The post road is supported by the money raised at the different toll bars, which are this year set for L. 981 Sterling. The bye roads are repaired by the statute labour, under the direction of the heritors of the parishes where they are situated. By act of parliament, the trustees have power to convert the statute work into money; the composition usually taken is 20s Sterling for each ploughgate of land, and 1s 6d from each householder who possesses a house not under 20s of rent; but though this amounts to a very considerable sum, yet many of the bye roads are in very bad repair, owing to the nature of the soil, which is generally clayey, and to the great scarcity of materials in many parts of the county.

Miscellaneous Observations.—John Knox, the famous reformer, was a native of Haddington; the house in the Giffordgate, in which he was born, still remains. The illustrious family of Maitland was for many ages seated at Leithington, in this parish, where the famous Duke of Lauderdale was born in 1616; several of that family are interred in Haddington church, particularly John Maitland, baron of Thirlstane, Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, whose monument is graced with an epitaph, composed by his royal master James VI. Amisfield house, in this parish, the property of the Earl of Wemyss, is a capital modern building, the body is 109 feet in length by 77 in depth; the gallery contains many fine paintings, some of them by the first masters: particularly Vertumnus and Pomona, by Rubens, for which the proprietor has been offered 800 guineas *.

* See a catalogue of all these paintings, Transactions of the Antiquarian Society, vol. 1st, p. 77.—84.

NUMBER

NUMBER LIV.

PARISH OF UPHALL.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF LINLITHGOW, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE*.)

Population and Agriculture.

THE parish of Strathbrok or Uphall†, contains 3120 Scotch, or 3922¼ British statute acres. The return to Dr. Webster from hence in 1755 was 690 souls. The number of inhabitants in 1778, by an actual numeration, amounted to 583; and in 1781 to 600, and seems likely to increase. The soil is in general a rich mouldering clay on a tilly bottom; but the lower fields are covered with some inches of rich loam, or intermixed with it. 178 acres are planted with fir, oak, spruce and larix. About 60 acres require a four horse plough, and there are 45 ploughs of this sort in the parish. No longer ago than 1768 much of it was divided in the baneful way

* Abridged from the account of that parish, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Buchan, in the 1st volume of the Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland, p. 139,—155.

† *Strathbrok* evidently is a Celtic name, denoting the valley of badgers or brocks; *Uphall* or *Ophall* signifies in the Gaelic an orchard, but may be referred also to a Saxon origin, Uphall or hill. *Dromesborlan* in this parish, signifies in the Gaelic, either the ridgey field lying near the rising moss, or, according to the laird of Macfarlane, the field of the rising music.

way of *runrig*. Very little ſummer fallow was practiſed; ſtill leſs of artificial graſſes ſown; incloſing neither practiſed nor approved of by the huſbandmen; and the general ſtate of agriculture lower than one could have imagined ſo near a great city ſuch as Edinburgh, from which the medium diſtance is no more than 11 meaſured miles. The method Lord Buchan took of introducing a better method, was giving leaſes for 19 years, putting an end to *runrig*, ſhowing examples of ſummer fallow, ſtraighting ridges, cleaning, artificial graſſes, rolling of graſs ſeeds, and barley ſtirr, incloſing, draining; all theſe are now practiſed by the huſbandmen more or leſs, and they have taſted the fruits of it. The endurance of leaſes now are 38 and 31 years for incloſing, and 19 or 21 where already incloſed; a good deal of wheat is grown in the pariſh, and it is very fit for that grain; the barley alſo and the beans are excellent; the ſoil is rather too wet and ſtrong for turnip and peaſe.

Rent.—The beſt incloſed land lets for 30s. an acre, good incloſed land 25s. an acre overhead, middling unincloſed land 25s. the worſt 8s. and 9s. excluding muir, of which there is not above 40 or 50 acres. The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 4262 Scotch.

Sheep, Exports, &c.—Sheep are not much in uſe, becauſe there are few ſtone fences, and the plantations are young. Oxen are not ſo much uſed as formerly, nor as much as they ought to be. The nearneſs of the pariſh to Edinburgh occaſioning much cart work, and oxen not being ſo fit for that ſort of labour. Large quantities of milk, butter, eggs and poultry are carried into that city; and, what is remarkable, it is but lately ſince the people fell upon the expedient of uſing

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a ſingle horſe cart, inſtead of a carrier's horſe, which is a ſaving of 50 per cent.

Villages, &c.—Broxburn, ſo called from the rivulet of that name, the only village in the pariſh, is now on the increaſe; and is let out on building leaſes of 99 years, at the rate of L. 3:4 per acre. Here is an annual fair in Auguſt. Timber is ſcarce, and conſequently dear; the Scottiſh pine does not thrive ſo well as the oak, aſh, and beech. The great willow thrives wonderfully, and is an uſeful tree for many country purpoſes.

Roads.—The high roads are ſupported by the ſtatute labour and ſubſcription; the ſtatute labour amounts to 15s. per plough; at an average a plough pays L. 45 of rent. The materials for the roads are a ſpecies of baſalt rock, which runs in a ridge from N. W. to S. E. in the pariſh, and is excellent for that purpoſe. A chain of good road may be formed and laid 24 feet broad for about 24s. and finiſhed off at 28s.

Minerals.—In the pariſh are a colliery, two free ſtone quarries, many ſeams of ironſtone, one above and one below two ſeams of coal; two lime quarries, but not wrought at preſent; whin-ſtone, baſalts, ſlate-ſtone, ſome coarſe fullers earth, potters-clay, brick-clay, coarſe red chalk, ſtone-marle; and ſmall quantities of ſhell marle. The coal is of excellent quality, raiſed at a moderate expence, and ſold at 5s. and 6s. per ton. From 10 to 12 pickmen are employed in this colliery.

NUMBER LV.

PARISH OF ABERLADY.

(COUNTY AND PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDALE.)

Situation.

ABERLADY church ſtands near the ſhore, about 15 miles eaſt of Edinburgh. The pariſh is bounded on the N. W. by the ſea, on the S. by Gladſmuir and Haddington, and on the E. by Haddington and Dirleton pariſhes, being ſeparated from the laſt by the water of Peffer, which falls into Aberlady bay at Luffneſs point. From this point the whole bay between Aberlady and Gulan ſhores is left dry at low water for near two miles. At ſpring tides, veſſels of 60 or 70 tons may come up the Peffer to within a few hundred yards of Aberlady, and lie perfectly ſafe upon a ſoft clay bottom, if properly ſecured by anchors againſt the N. E. wind. Along the ſhore from Aberlady to the weſtmoſt part of the pariſh, runs a track or border of links or ſandy ground, of conſiderable breadth, abounding with rabbits.

Soil

* Abridged from the Topographical Deſcription of that pariſh, by the Rev. Dr. Neil Roy, in the firſt volume of the Tranſactions of the Antiquaries in Scotland, page 512—522.

Soil and Surface.—Within this border, for a conſiderable way, the ſoil is, for the moſt part light, with a mixture of loam; but the middle part of the pariſh, almoſt from the E. to the W. extremity of it is generally poor, flat, ſandy, and partly liable to be flooded during heavy rains. From this flat, the ground riſes gradually toward the S. being part of that fertile bank of land which extends from Fawſyde to Whitekirk. The landed property of this pariſh, excluſive of a ſmall part of Redhouſe, is divided into four baronies, Aberlady, Gosford, Balncrieff, Luffneſs.

Population.—The whole of that landed property, excluſive of ſome incloſures about the houſes of Balncrieff and Goſford, and a few acres belonging to feuars in Aberlady, is poſſeſſed by eight farmers. The farms are large, which is unfriendly to population. The village of Gosford is entirely deſtroyed, and that of Balncrieff falling into decay. The return to Dr. Webſter in 1755, however, was only 739 ſouls. By an accurate enquiry very lately made, from houſe to houſe, the number of ſouls was found to be preciſely 800, of which number 386 were in the village of Aberlady. At an average of births and marriages for the laſt 25 years, there have been exactly 4 births to each marriage.

Parochial Funds.—There are no charity funds or mortified money in the pariſh, except 1600 merks by Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford; the yearly intereſt of which is ordered to be paid to backgone tenants, and others on theſe lands. The poor, who are not very numerous, are ſupported by the weekly collections at the church doors, aided occaſionally by a voluntary parochial aſſeſſment, of which the tenants pay one half. Theſe aſſeſſments have been ſo moderate, that for 21

years paſt, the heritors have contributed, at an average no more than L. 1 : 7s. annually.

Miſcellaneous Obſervotions.—The valued rent of the pariſh, amounts to L. 7445 : 6 : 8d. Scotch—The old church of Aberlady was a diſgrace to the pariſh; it meaſured 100 feet in length, by 16½ feet in breadth, and was betwixt 10 and 11 feet in height; the walls were partly built of mud, and the floor was ſome feet lower than the ſurface of the ground without. In 1773 the heritors built a very commodious church, adjoining to which are two ailes, in one of which is a monument to the memory of Lady North and Grey, wife of Patrick Lord Elibank, with an inſcription compoſed by his Lordſhip, who was proprietor of Balncrieff, the moſt extenſive barony in the pariſh. The Earl of Portmore is patron.

NUMBER

NUMBER LVI.

PARISH OF LAMINGTON.

(PRESBYTERY OF BIGGAR, SYNOD OF LOTHIAN AND TWEEDDALE, COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. MR. THOMAS MITCHELL.

Name.

THIS parish consists of two baronies, Lamington and Wandel. The first belonging to Lady Ross Baillie, and the other to Lord Douglas of Douglas; and both present to the kirk of Lamington, to which Wandel is annexed.—— Lamington is perhaps contracted for Lambington, a place of pasture for sheep on hills extending long and wide; or where was antiently a fair for lambs, which may have given rise to its name. And Wandel, may be put for Wandale; *wan* signifying pale or languid, and *dale*, a valley; and the place exactly answers to that name. As for instance Wandel mill, it being obscured, hidden, and scarcely seen from the high way. The present farmer has built a new house conspicuous at first glance of the eye. And there are in it two or three other farm houses, not in concealed and hollow places as formerly, but in such as are in full view, according to the modern taste.— We differ from our forefathers in this, as in other respects.

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We chuſe for our habitation an high and open place, and in which there is much free air; whereas they preferred a cloſe and confined place, and low in ſituation. Thus the old manſe or clergyman's houſe in Lamington, was lower and nearer the burn running through the town, than it is now; hence it may be taken for granted, that they of old were for the moſt part, if not always, more healthful than we now are; and of courſe, did not ſo much mind and perceive the want of the free air, as we do.

Extent, Rivers, &c.—The extent of this pariſh is about 9 miles in length, meaſuring it as lying on the Clyde, and ſuppoſed to be between 3 or 4 miles in breadth, taking the adjacent hills into the account. Its form reſembles a rectangle, or oblong figure, whoſe oppoſite ſides are equal.—The pariſh is ſituated on the eaſt ſide of the Clyde and bordering on it.

This river Clyde which gives name to Clydeſdale, takes its riſe from an hill called Clydeſlaw in the pariſh of Crawford, and about 9 or 10 miles diſtant from Cold Chapel at the head of this pariſh. There are 10 burns or rivulets in the pariſh, 6 in Wandel, and 4 in Lamington.—There may be ſeveral mineral waters of great uſe, if found out. One attributed to a ſaint, is called St. Innian's Well, and lies a little above the town of Lamington. It is ſaid that ſlate is found in the hills of Lamington; and ſome years ago, ſearch was made for coal about Hartſide in Wandel, but failed in the trial. In the ſame place alſo, lead was ſought for, but the attempt did not ſucceed.

Woods, &c.—There were antiently many woods in this pariſh, not only about Lamington and in the mains, but alſo about Wandel, and in Woodend, or Devonſhaw, and downwards to Hartſide and Braehead, or Devonſhaw-hill, which grew all the way up the bank of the Clyde, for the ſpace of 2 miles

or

or more. Devonſhaw is the ſame with Woodend in the Celtic. And Hartſide may be ſo named from Harts, which animals may have been formerly plentiful in the woods, which then abounded.—The trees now remaining in Lamington, there being few or none in Wandel, are principally the beech, aſh, elm, alder, plane, and fir.—There are no thorn hedges here except in the glebes of Wandel and Lamington, in the ridges adjoining to the latter in the high road below Loanhead, and about yards and gardens. For this neglect two reaſons are given, firſt, that the hedges gather flocks of birds, to eat up the grain; and ſecondy, that when the grounds are incloſed there is not ſo much open air, to wind their corn after it is cut down, and to make it ready to be led into the barn yard, in a country like this, incompaſſed about with hills and high grounds, and conſequently liable to wet weather *.

There is a beautiful and pleaſant ſpot of ground ſituated on the Clyde, at Whitehill, improved at a great expence, by drains in a long and ſtraight ditch ſet about with willows about a mile or upwards.——There is ſcarcely a garden, which deſerves the name, as being almoſt without flowers, and having little or no fruits excepting gooſeberries, currants, and blackberries.——Not only the farm houſes have a ſmall ſpot of ground on which are ſet plants and herbs, but alſo every cottage almoſt has a kail yard.

Extent, Rent, &c.—The acres in the barony of Lamington are about 4000; and in that of Wandel about 5000, in all 9000. There are about 3000 of the former, and above 4000 of the latter, in high grounds, for paſture of ſheep, in graſ-

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* Theſe two reaſons ſeem to be unqueſtionably ill founded, as the hedges may be well pruned, and kept ſufficiently thin and low, with ſome labour, which would be abundantly recompenſed by defending the grounds from the encroachment of ſheep and other cattle, to which they may be expoſed.

ſing which at an average, one is allowed to an acre. So that there are about 3000 ſheep in Lamington, and about 4000 in Wandel, in all 7000. And beſides the ſheep now mentioned there are about a ſcore of goats in Cowgill of Lamington. There are about 1000 acres of arable grounds and graſs for cattle in Lamington; and about 900 in Wandel.—The rents in both baronies are nearly equal, between L.700 and L.800 each.

Sheep, and Horſes.—There are only two ſorts of ſheep, the ſhort and the long, the former, our own breed, are thought to agree beſt with our hills and high ground. The ſtore-farmers ſtill ſmear their ſheep with tar and butter in this cold and wet climate; and the price of it is 7s. per ſtone.—There are in the barony of Lamington between 40 and 50 horſes, in the town about 10, and in the barony of Wandel about 30, in all between 80 and 90.—There are in the barony of Lamington about 180 cows, in Wandel about 80, and in the town 30, and in all about 290.

Population Table.

Number of ſouls in 1755	599	From 20 to 30 -	69
——————— 1792	417	—— 30 to 40 -	34
Under 7 years of age	79	—— 40 to 50 -	39
Above 7 - -	338	—— 50 to 60 -	23
Married - -	118	—— 60 to 70 -	27
Widowers and widows	36	—— 70 to 80 -	12
From 1 to 7 -	79	—— 80 to 90 -	1
—— 7 to 14 -	73	—— 90 to 100 -	1
—— 14 to 20 -	58	About 100 * - -	1

Millers

* Andrew Grieve, a ſmall farmer at Braehead in Wandel, who poſſeſſes a few acres of ground belonging to Lord Douglas; he is now very frail, and quite wearied of the world; but ſtill retains, in a great meaſure, his mental powers and faculties in active vigour, and is a living chronicle of the holy ſcriptures. It is ſaid, that the late miniſter of Lamington, Mr. Blinſhall, was 100 years old and upwards.

Millers	2	Publick houſes	2
Weavers	4	Small merchant-ſhops	4
Smith	1	Eſtabliſhed church	414
Cooper	1	Burgher Seceder	1
Wright	1	Relief Seceders	2
Dyers	2	In Lamington barony	
Taylors	3	Large tenants	8
Huntſman	1	Small do.	14
Shoemakers	2	Subtenants	6
Midwife	1	In Wandel barony	
Sempſtreſſes	2 or 3	Large tenants	4
Carrier	1		

Baptiſms, Marriages, and Burials, for 8 Years preceding 1792, extracted from the Pariſh Regiſter.

	Baptiſms.				
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	9	5	14	4	4
1785	7	6	13	0	12
1786	7	7	14	1	2
1787	3	8	11	4	1
1788	2	6	8	1	6
1789	3	3	6	4	7
1790	6	7	13	4	8
1792	3	6	9	5	5
Tota	40	48	88	23	45
An. av.	5	6	11	3	5½

There are about 200 communicants in this pariſh. There were about 400 examinable perſons between 30 and 40 years ago.

ago. The decrease is owing to the union of farms in the barony of Wandel.

Agriculture, Soil, &c.—There are here, as in other places, some good farmers. In cultivating poor ground, they make folds for the sheep in the night, to enrich it with their dung; and there too they are milked for butter and cheese, the last of which is not a little prized by those who know it.

In wet grounds they make drains to carry off the water, and prepare it for tillage; and they have as good crops on it as in other places. In the neighbourhood of Wiston, on the other side of the Clyde, there is plenty of lime, which some bring, and lay on ley ground that has been grass, and as they say rested for 3 or 4 years, on which are good crops for 2 years, but the 3d. is not so good; and they bring in the ground, as they express it, by sowing on it now and then ryegrass and clover, as in other parts. There is no such thing practised here as fallowing; but instead of that they take a crop of potatoes with the plough, which they think is better than dibbling and covering them with a spade. And some have introduced the sowing of turnips for the cows, and manuring the ground.——The soil varies; in some parts it is dry, thin, light or gravelly, and shallow; in some, wet, heavy and clayey, and in others, thick and deep. It is generally too strong for an English plough of two horses, and therefore 3 or 4 horses, and sometimes 2 horses, and 2 oxen or cows are usually yoked in a plough.—There is here, as in other parts, a change of grain, such as bear or barley, oats, pease and beans, but no wheat is raised. They begin to sow pease and oats about the middle or end of March, and beginning of April; and barley about the end of April and beginning of May, and when they have done with the former, and before they enter upon the latter, they set potatoes, of which every cottage as well as farm house has a quantity sufficient

ficient to maintain them through the winter and ſpring. The crops are generally late, harveſt is begun about the end of Auguſt or beginning of September, and it is not finiſhed till the middle or end of October; and ſometimes it is a week or two in November, before all is cut down and brought into the barn-yard. The farmers are moſt afraid of rotting rains and nipping froſts; in conſequence of which it is here much the practice of ſowing early corn in the ſpring, and it is not to be omitted mentioning, that every family ſows a quantity of flax or lint-ſeed. Thus a large houſe ſows a peck or an half; and a ſmall cap full, *i. e.* a forpet or fourth part of a peck *.

Climate.—The air is ſometimes moiſt, and ſometimes dry. This being an hilly and mountainous part of the country, it is much expoſed to rain in the ſummer, and ſnow in the winter; but, notwithſtanding theſe changes, it is not a little healthful to the preſent inhabitants, they being accuſtomed to them. The climate here is generally ſharp and cold, and that becauſe the places toward Crawford-muir and the Lead-hills are exceeding high, and it varies in different parts as they are more or leſs elevated.—It is ſaid, that from Cold Chapel, there is nearly the ſame diſtance to the ſea-ports of Annan, Air, Greenock, and Leith; and in like manner from the town of Lamington to Edinburgh, Glaſgow, and Dumfries, there is nearly the

 ſame

* The ſervants here, as in the neighbouring pariſhes, have their wages almoſt double of what they had twenty years ago; thus a man for half an year gets L. 4. and a maid L. 1 : 10s. A labouring man gets 8d a day, and his meat through the year; and at harveſt a man reaper has 10d a day, and his meat; and a woman reaper 8d, and her meat. Some engage for ſo much money during the harveſt, as a man for L. 1 : 5s. and a woman L. 1. In 1791, oat-meal was ſold at between 29s and 30s a load,—and bear at 15s a boll.—Barley at 20d a ſtone, or thereabouts.—Bear meal at 8d a peck;—and peaſe meal at 9d. But the price of grain is very precarious.

ſame diſtance, ſo that this pariſh may be reckoned in the center or heart of the country.

Schools, Eccleſiaſtical State, &c.—There are 2 ſchools in this pariſh, one publick at Lamington, and another private at Wandel; the former was new built in 1788 *.—The maſter's ſalary is only L. 100 Scotch, and what little more he may make by teaching. And the ſalary of the ſchool-maſter in Wandel, is only L. 2 : 5 : 6⅔. ſterling.

The ſtipend conſiſts of L. 43 : 12 : 6d. from Wandel barony; L. 14 : 12 : 6d. from Lamington barony; 16½ bolls of oatmeal; 7½ bolls of bear; and in all about L. 74. ſterling in 1792. The glebe conſiſts of ten acres, four in Lamington, and ſix in Wandel; and the latter lies adjacent to two parks belonging to Lady Roſs Bailie; between 6 and 7 acres are let to the miniſter at L. 1 : 15s. an acre.

There is in this pariſh no tax for the poor, their maintenance depends upon the charity of others; the collections in the church on the ſabbath day, before the diſmiſſing of the congregation; and on other days by baptiſms, marriages, and burials, by mortcloth, bell, and litter; and a little ſtock which the kirk-ſeſſion has laid out on intereſt.—All theſe put together amount to but a ſmall pittance, or ſcanty allowance, diſtributed to each at the rate of 18d, 2s, and 2s 6d a month; but thoſe in more diſtreſſing and neceſſitous circumſtances may, have ſomewhat more beſtowed upon them. There is a poors roll

* In the year 1738, there was a ſum mortified by the late Counteſs of Forfar to the kirk-ſeſſion of Lamington, to preſent a burſar to the high-ſchool and college of Glaſgow;—a boy born in the barony of Wandel, educated at the ſchool there, and not below eight or above ten years of age,—of which there is a vice every 13 years, and that at the expiration thereof one is to ſucceed another, if found with the above expreſs conditions and qualifications.

roll or rate, in which are marked their number, and every one's moiety or portion. There are now 9 on the roll. What a pity is it, and matter of grief to the poor, that the heritors do not reſide in the pariſh!*

Diſeaſes.—The diſeaſes incident to this pariſh, and moſt prevalent, are, intermitting fevers, rheumatiſm, Eryſipelas or St. Anthony's Fire, and the dropſy; colds and coughs are frequent here; conſumptions of late years have carried off ſeveral young perſons of both ſexes between 10 and 20 years of age. The ſmall pox is not now ſo dangerous as it formerly has been. In 1787 there were in the pariſh between 20 and 30 inoculated, and they all recovered; and in the year 1792 about as many, who in like manner all did well.

Miſcellaneous

* There is a Roman camp at White-Hill, near Culter, at one end of the pariſh in Lamington; at the other end of it in Wandel, at Cold Chapel, there are two Roman camps, one on the road-ſide between Cold Chapel and Little Gill, and the other on the Arbor-hill, ſo called, becauſe formerly it may have abounded with trees. At the foot of one of the hills there is a place called Rob's Bog, which, in time of war with England, being covered over with ruſhes by the Scotch, and the Engliſh taking it for ſafe ground, and paſſing through it on horſe back at full ſpeed, fell into it, and periſhed there; the ſtratagem being aſcribed to Rob one of the commanders of the Scotch army, the place derived its name from him.

In Birwick heights there is an indelible mark of a furnace, where it is ſaid that a fire was always kept by the druids. Oppoſite to Lamington, on the other ſide of the Clyde, is an high mountain called Tinto, or the hill of fire, on which it may be ſuppoſed that in like manner a fire was always kept.

In one of the hills above Wandel mill there is Wallace's camp, ſo called from that great Scotch warrior, who encamped here. There were in this pariſh anciently four great buildings, called towers; two in Wandel, and two in Lamington, one in the town, and another in the mains; but to ſay nothing of the three former, it may be mentioned of the latter that the walls ſtill remain ſome ſtories high, very thick and ſtrong. It was built by a laird of Lamington,

Miscellaneous Observations.—The language of this parish is no doubt much inferior to the English in pronunciation and accent; but there are in it few or no peculiarities in articulation and sound as in some countries of Scotland, and even in England. The taste of the age in which we live, is here, as in other parts, much altered from what it was between 15 and 20 years ago, as to expence of living, such as in dress and shoes, meat and drink, tea and tobacco.—The inhabitants of this parish are generally given to industry.—The fuel is mostly coal, there being little use made of peat here, except in the drying of corn, and for the kiln and making of malt.—Most of the people in the town of Lamington have 5 or 6 acres, at L. 1 : 12 : 6d.—There are two millers, one in Lamington, and the other in Wandel, and the thirlage or multure, which the tenants give to the mill in their own barony, is a mutchkin, or the fourth part of a peck per boll. There is a lint mill in Wandel mill, and a toll in Hartside in the same barony.

ton, of the ancient and honourable name of Baillie, with whom the aforesaid Sir William Wallace was allied by marriage; in proof of which, and as a piece of curiosity, Wallace's chair is now in Bonnington, in the possession of Lady Ross Baillie, the representative of the family of Lamington, being removed from the tower of that place. The chair is remarkably broad and stout. —There was a beautiful orchard in the mains of Lamington, in which were found all kinds and sorts of the finest and richest fruits, when possest by the late laird of Lamington, about half a century ago, or even later, but it is now quite destroyed.

NUMBER

NUMBER LVII.

CITY OF EDINBURGH,

WITH THE

PARISHES OF CANONGATE, ST. CUTHBERTS, SOUTH AND NORTH LEITH.

IT would conſiderably exceed the bounds of a work of this nature, to enter into any minute detail of the antient ſtate of Edinburgh, and its neighbourhood. The hiſtory of that city is contained in other publications, to which the reader is referred *. Some information, however, regarding the progreſſive ſtate of its population, the commerce of Leith, &c. will not be unacceptable.

By a paper, in the poſſeſſion of the Seſſion Clerk of Edinburgh, intitled, " A liſt of the haill poſſeſſors (of houſes) in " the different pariſhes," the number of families in the year 1678 appears to have been as follows:

In

* See particularly, Maitland's hiſtory of Edinburgh, printed *anno* 1754, and the hiſtory of Edinburgh, by Hugo Arnot Eſq. 2d. edition, printed in 1788.

In the N. W. Parish	now called	Tolbooth	513
N. do.		High Church	389
N. E. do.		College	470
S. W. do.		Old Grayfriars	672
S. do.		Old Church	625
S. E. do.		Tron	664
		Total	3333

The old town of Edinburgh at that time consisted of the above six parishes only, consequently the preceding list contained every family then living in what was properly to be called the city of Edinburgh. On the supposition that there were at that time even 6 individuals in each family, the total number of souls would amount to 19,998, which gives but a poor idea of the situation and importance of Edinburgh at that period. If we reckon the Canongate to have contained 2500 inhabitants, the parish of St. Cuthberts 7000, and those of South and North Leith 6000 souls, the total number of individuals in Edinburgh and its neighbourhood, was 35,500 in 1678.

The Rev. Dr. Blair communicated a paper, containing an enumeration of families and examinable persons in the city of Edinburgh, apparently taken in 1722, in which the numbers in each parish of that city were thus stated,

	Families.	Examinable persons.
Tolbooth Parish	701	2418
New-Church, do.	581	2447
College Church, do.	876	2857
Tron Church, do.	718	3007
Lady Yesters, do.	683	1852
Old-Church, do.	557	1924
Haddo's-Hole, or Little-Church, do.	554	1918
Carried over	4670	16423

East

	Brought over	4670	16,423
East Grayfriars, do. *	- -	651	2245
New-Grayfriars, do. †	- -	474	1668
	Total	5975	20,336

Adding the usual proportion of one fourth of the examinable persons for children, the number of inhabitants in the city of Edinburgh in 1722 appears to have amounted to 25,420, or somewhat less than 4½ to each family, and if we allow 15,000 for the suburbs and the environs, the total would be 40,420 souls.

Maitland, in his history of Edinburgh, founding his computation on the register of burials, makes the number of the inhabitants in the above nine parishes in that city to amount to 48,000 at least, in 1753. But that calculation is little to be regarded, as, in 1755, an enumeration was made, at the desire of the late Dr. Webster, when the numbers proved to be as follow;

* The number of families in the East-Grayfriars parish was not specified, but it is calculated from the proportions betwixt the families and individuals in the preceding seven parishes.

† The numbers of the families, and of individuals, in the New-Grayfriars parish were not specified; but as in the paper communicated by Dr. Blair, a column, supposed to refer to some prior enumeration, was inserted, the above calculation was made from the proportion that parish bore to the rest in that column, which stood as follows:

Tolbooth Parish	2130	Old-Church Parish	2094
New-Church, do.	2222	Haddo's Hole, do.	2076
College Church, do.	2240	East-Grayfriars, do.	2395
Tron Church, do.	2557	New-Grayfriars, do.	1550
Lady Yesters, do.	1628		
		Total	18,893

In the old town of Edinburgh - -	31,122
In the Canongate - - - - -	4,500
In St. Cuthberts or Weſt-church Pariſh -	12,168
In South Leith - - - - -	7,200
In North Leith - - - - -	2,205
Total	57,195

The computation made by Mr. Arnot in 1775, was ſtill more conſiderable. The number of families in Edinburgh, Leith, and the environs, he ſtates, amounted to 13,806, which, multiplied by 6, makes the number of inhabitants to be 82,836, and to this he propoſes to add 1400 for the caſtle, hoſpitals, &c. amounting in all to 84,236. But 6 to a family is too high a calculation even for Edinburgh, large as the families there are. Reckoning at the rate of 5 to each family, which, it appears from the enumeration in 1791, is ſufficiently high, and adding 1400 for the caſtle &c. the number of ſouls in the city and ſuburbs, including Leith, amounted in 1775 to 70,430

Soon after the Statiſtical Account of Scotland was ſet on foot, the miniſters and elders of ſix pariſhes of the city of Edinburgh, (the High Church, Old Church, Little Church, Lady Yeſter's, Old-Grayfriars, and St. Andrew's), and the pariſhes of St. Cuthberts, South Leith, and North Leith, with the view of promoting this work, made an enumeration of the inhabitants within their reſpective bounds. The numbers in ſix of the ten pariſhes of Edinburgh being in this manner actually aſcertained, ſufficient data were from thence afforded for eſtimating the numbers of families, and of individuals, in the remaining four pariſhes; and the reſult of this enumeration and calculation is exhibited in the following Table of the Population of Edinburgh and its environs in 1791.

High

	Families.	Males.	Females	Total.
High-Church Parish - -	476	951	1294	2245
Old-Church, do. - -	496	920	1251	2171
Little-Church, do. - -	498	882	1254	2136
Lady Yesters, do. - -	583	961	1128	2089
Old-Grayfriars, do. - -	878	1534	1892	3426
St. Andrews, New-Town, do.	1243	2905	4301	7206
Tolbooth Church, do. -	500	933	1378	2311
Tron Church, do. - -	467	875	1283	2158
College Church, do. - -	662	1349	1710	3659
New-Grayfriars, do. - -	631	1351	1566	2917
Total in the the city of Edinburgh	6434	12661	17057	29718
In Canongate Parish - -	1552	2700	3500	6200
In St. Cuthberts, do. * -	7133	15571	17376	32947
In South Leith, do. - -	2893	5494	5938	11432
In North Leith, do. -	642	1059	1350	2409
Total	18054	37485	45221	82706
In Edinburgh castle † - -	-	624	223	847
In the Hospitals, Charity Work-house, Infirmary, and Prison of Edinburgh - -	-	-	-	1333
Total	-	-	-	84886

It

* The families in St. Cuthbert's Parish were not enumerated, but are calculated from the proportions between the families and individuals in the City of Edinburgh.

† In Edinburgh castle,

Commissioned and Staff Officers - - - - - -	41
Serjeants - - - - - - -	26
Drummers and pipers - - - - - -	14
Rank and file - - - - - - -	472
Barrack master - - - - - - -	1
Gunners - - - - - - - -	4
Women - - - - - - - -	158
Children - - - - - - - -	131
Total	847

It is to be obſerved, on the above enumeration, that it muſt be rather under, than above, the real amount. In ſome of the pariſhes, lodgers were not included; and in all of them, the real number of many families could not be obtained, in conſequence of the abſurd apprehenſions entertained, that the enumeration was intended for the purpoſe of laying on ſome new tax, in which the people were to be charged higher in proportion to the number of their children. It is probable that from 2 to perhaps 3000 ſouls more would have appeared on the liſts, had the enumeration been more accurate and complete, and had there been no concealment in conſequence of the above mentioned prejudices of ſeveral of the inhabitants.

There appears, however, at any rate, to have been a very great additional increaſe indeed to the population of the capital of Scotland and its environs, the progreſs of which may be ſtated as follows:

Population of Edinburgh, the Canongate, St. Cuthbert's and Leith, *anno* 1678 - - -	35500
do. in 1722 - - - - -	40420
do. in 1755 - - - -	57195
do. in 1775 - - - -	70430
do. in 1791 - - - - -	84886

CANONGATE

In Heriots Hoſpital, (boys 120, men 8, women 9), - - Total	137
In Watſon's, do. - - - - - - -	70
In the Merchant Maiden, do. - - - -	90
In the Trades Maiden, do. - - - - -	62
In the Trinity, do. - - - - - - -	54
In the Orphan, do. - - - - - -	160
In Edinburgh Charity Work-houſe {men 97, boys 45, women 343, girls 42} -	528
In the Royal Infirmary {atttendants 33, average of patients 141} - - -	174
In the Tolbooth, {jailors 6, debtors 19, criminals, including thoſe for trifling offences, 32} - -	58
Total	1333

CANONGATE PARISH.

OF the 6200 inhabitants of this diſtrict, about 1200 are under ten years of age. Of the 1552 families, about 1200 profeſs the eſtabliſhed religion; 80 belong to the Epiſcopal church, 114 are Seceders, 18 Roman Catholics, and the remaining 140 either ſectaries of different denominations, or families who will give no account of their religious perſuaſion. The population of this pariſh appears to be pretty ſtationary for a good number of years paſt; but a conſiderable change has taken place with reſpect to the rank and the opulence of the inhabitants. It was formerly remarkable for the number of noble and genteel families reſiding in it. But of late, ſince the increaſe of the buildings in the New-Town and ſouth diſtricts, the number of theſe has conſiderably diminiſhed. The intereſt of the Canongate, as a burgh, has alſo been hurt by the alteration of the carriage-road to Leith, which has cut off, in a great meaſure, the revenue it derived from the cuſtoms at the Watergate.

The burgh of Canongate, being a vaſſalage to Edinburgh, is governed by a baron bailie, and two reſident magiſtrates annually choſen by the Town-Council of that city. Their juriſdiction extends beyond the bounds of the pariſh, to the eaſt ſide of the Pleaſance, and to the town of North Leith. They are *ex officio* juſtices of peace.

There are two miniſters of the pariſh of Canongate. One is preſented by the Crown, and the other by the joint body of the magiſtrates, kirk-ſeſſion, heritors, and deacons of craft of the eight incorporations. The ſettlement of the laſt, owing to the number of electors, (about 400), has generally been attended with much difficulty and litigation.

The ſtipend of the firſt or ſenior miniſter is L. 99 in money

ney, and 51 bolls of victual, in equal proportions of wheat, barley, and oats; besides the interest, at the rate of 5 *per cent.* of L. 500, provided for building or purchasing a manse, if the incumbent shall require it to be laid out for that purpose.

The chapel adjacent to Holyroodhouse was long used as the parish church of Canongate. But, in the year 1686, James II. having resolved to restore the Order of the Thistle to its former splendor, converted it into a Roman Catholic place of worship, for the installment of the knights, and for other solemnities belonging to that ancient Order. The Protestant inhabitants where thereby for a time deprived of a church. The inconvenience of this being severely felt, they gave in a petition to the king, for a grant of as much of a certain sum of money, which had been disponed to the Town-Council of Edinburgh, *anno* 1649, by one Thomas Moodie, for the purpose of building a church, (which purpose had never been fulfilled), as should be sufficient for erecting a parish church in Cannongate. This petition the king was pleased to grant; and, accordingly, the present church was built, and a burial place annexed to it, *anno* 1688, for the sum of 43,000 merks Scotch.—A condition, however, was annexed to this grant, that all persons, having right to seats in Holyroodhouse, should be provided to the same extent in the new parish church. Hence by far the greater part of the area and lofts in the church of Canongate is still the property either of the incorporations, or of noble families, formerly connected with the King's household.

The repairs of the church of Canongate within these thirty years past, have amounted to upwards of L. 2200 sterling. Many disputes having arisen about the property of the church, the administration of the funds arising from it, and the burden of these expensive repairs; a contract of agreement was at last entered into by the magistrates, Kirk Session, heritors, and

and deacons of craft of Canongate, *anno* 1772, vesting the said property and administration, with the burden of repairs, in fifteen delegates, chosen annually, under the appellation of managers of the church and church-yard funds of Canongate, viz.

Six delegates from the heritors.

Three from the magistrates and treasurer of Canongate, one of whom to be always the baron baillie.

Three from the kirk-session.

Three from the incorporations.

The funds under their management are,

1st, The rents of such seats in the church as are not heritable property of individuals, or do not belong to the incorporations.

2dly, The produce of the sale of burial ground; of these, besides the unpurchased ground in the old church-yard, they have now a considerable number for sale in a piece of ground adjacent to it on the East, lately purchased and inclosed for this purpose.

3dly, The surplus of an annuity of four per cent. levied by an act of the Scots parliament, on the rents of houses in Canongate, for the stipend of a second minister of the parish, and certain other purposes therein mentioned.

There never has been any poor rate in the parish of Canongate.

The charity-work-house, which was built by subscription in the year 1761, is maintained from the following funds.

1st, The collections at the church door, amounting on an average of 8 years past, to L. 192 *per annum*.

2dly, A benefit play, granted annually by the manager of the Edinburgh Theatre.

3dly, Dues on mortcloths and private baptisms.

4thly, Dues on funerals passing to other places, when the remains

remains of the dead are lodged in an aile of the church, appropriated for that purpoſe.

5thly, Private and occaſional benefactions.

The number in the houſe, in November laſt, was 38 aged perſons, aud 35 children, beſides 23 out penſioners;—Total 96

There is a public grammar ſchool in the pariſh under the patronage of the magiſtrates and kirk ſeſſion. The rector has a ſalary of L. 36 for himſelf and an aſſiſtant.

St. CUTHBERT's or WEST CURCH PARISH.

	In the ſuburbs.	Country part.	Total.
Parents, Male - -	3970	605	4575
Do. Female - -	4604	698	5302
Children, Male - -	4972	889	5861
Do. Female -	5383	830	6213
Lodgers, Male - -	2021	197	2218
Do. Female - -	2180	187	2367
Servants, Male - -	2242	675	2917
Do. Female - -	2911	583	3494
Total	28283	4664	32947

It is not perfectly eaſy to draw a preciſe line between the ſuburbs and the country, and therefore it is neceſſary to mention that the inhabitants of Lauriſton, Tollcroſs, Caſtlebarns, Fountainbridge, Weſt Church Charity-workhouſe, Water of Leith, Stockbridge, Silver-mills, Canonmills, Broughton, and Leith Walk, are included in the numbers ſtated for the ſuburbs.

It is to be ſuppoſed that there are inaccuracies in the general enumeration of the pariſh, but they cannot be of any importance; and as the ſurvey was made chiefly in the months of

of September and October, the numbers, (especially in the article of lodgers) are probably stated below the fact, rather than beyond it.——This parish may contain above 9000 acres; the valued rent is L. 29,536 : 13 ; 4 Scotch, and the real rent of the land may be moderately estimated at L. 22,500 sterling.

SOUTH LEITH PARISH.

In this parish are 5142 heads of families, 2439 male children, 2432 female children, 484 male servants, 935 female servants, in all 11432 individuals, and 2893 families. Of these, 423 indviduals reside in Restalrig, 557 in Abbeyhill, and 1497 in Calton of Edinburgh.——The valued rent of this parish is L. 6413 : 2 11 Scotch.

In 1784 the trade of Leith was estimated at half a million sterling, according to the following statement.

8	Traders or companies dealing in flax, hemp, iron, ashes, tar, &c. - -	L. 160500
10	Do. in wood - - -	32000
10	Do. in teas, spirits, and groceries -	65000
9	Do. in wine and spirits, hops, &c. -	36500
8	Do. in grain, both by consignment and purchase - - - -	161000
2	Manufacturers of soap and candles -	13000
	Rope works, raw materials L. 12200, labour L. 14800 - - - -	27000
	Total	L. 495000

Grain imported by the above 8 traders in that article.

Wheat about	60,000 bolls	-	L. 66000
Oats ——	100,000 do.	-	- 65,000
Barley ——	20,000 do.	-	- 21,000
Peafe ——	10,000 do.	-	9,000
Total	190,000 bolls		L. 161,000

Ships cleared at the cuftomhoufe in 1784.

From foreign parts - - - -	247
With coals - - - -	361
Coafters - - - -	782
In ballaft - - - -	384
Total	1774

From the 13th of November 1786, to the 13th of November 1787, there arrived in Leith harbour, the following veffels.

	Foreign.	Englifh.	Scotch.	Total.
Ships - -	—— -	17 -	10 -	27
Brigs - -	11 -	22 -	92 -	125
Sloops - -	19 -	282 -	1407 -	1708
Tons - -	3244	26170	75809	105223

During the fame period, there came into Leith harbour, from ports within the Firth of Forth 383 veffels with coals, meafuring 14,956 tons, and the fame number of veffels with other goods, meafuring 16,139 tons.

NORTH LEITH.

The following Account of this Parifh was drawn up by the prefent incumbent, DAVID JOHNSTONE, D. D.

Name, Surface, and Climate.—The name, Leith, is derived from an old Scotch or Gaelic word, which fignifies the mouth of

of the water. North Leith originally belonged to the parish of Holyroodhouse, from which it was disjoined and erected into a separate parish in the year 1606. It then comprehended only the village of North Leith, and the coal hill, which are a part of the barony of Broughton; but, in the year 1630, the baronies of Newhaven and Hillhouse-field, which belonged to the parish of St. Cuthberts or West Kirk, were annexed to it.

The parish is of an oblong figure, extending along the sea shore about an English mile in length, and is a quarter of a mile in breadth; it is bounded by the Firth of Forth, on the north, by the parish of St. Cuthberts on the west, and by South Leith, on the south and east. The face of the country is flat, and its soil light and sandy; but with the dung procured from the town, it produces wheat, barley, clover and potatoes. It is all inclosed. There are properly no farms in the parish; a few gardeners rent the most of it, and give about L. 3 : 10 per acre. The whole lands do not exceed 170 acres, of which there may be about 20 in kitchen gardens. The only heritor is Mr Robertson of Lady-kirk. The rest are feuars, who hold of the trinity-house Leith.

The air, in general, is sharp, clear and healthy; the place has been much frequented, of late years, for sea bathing, and a number of houses has been erected for the accommodation of strangers. In the months of April and May, an east wind generally prevails, which occasions damp and foggy weather.

Population.—In the year 1745, the number of inhabitants was about 1400. For 25 years past, the incumbent has taken up a roll of them every year, in course of ministerial visitation, and finds the souls amount at present to about 2400. This year, 1791, the number of families is 642, and the individuals are 2409, of which 1350 are females, and 1059 are

males; so that the females exceed the males by 291; upon an average, they are somewhat under four to a family. About 12 months ago, 100 families were dispossessed, and their houses pulled down to open a passage to the new bridge; but the people seem to have got lodgings in the town, as the numbers are not diminished. Two large houses are erected in place of the old ones, which will accommodate 20 families.

By a medium of births for 20 years, they amount to 82 annually, but in these are included several from South Leith, who attend public worship in North Leith, and have their childrens names registered there; 1800 of the parishioners live in North Leith, Coalhill and Citadel; the other 600, reside in the fishing town of Newhaven and in detached houses in the country. The number of marriages, at an average, is 25. There is no register kept of the dead, as the people grudged the expence of it; and, indeed, it would not ascertain the number of those who die in the parish, with any precision, as a great many from South Leith and the neighbourhood, bury in North Leith church-yard. Almost all the parishioners attend the established church. The number of other persuasions does not exceed 50. There are no very old people in the parish; a few exceed 80 years.

Manufactures and Rent, &c.—The principal manufacture in the place is ship-building, and a number of fine vessels from 200 to 300 tons have been lately built. There are 5 master-builders, who employ about 152 carpenters, whose wages are about 1s 10d a day each. There have been two dry docks erected within these sixteen years, one of which lets at L. 130 per annum; the other is still more valuable, and is in the possession of the proprietor. The great bulk of the inhabitants are carpenters, sailors, and fishermen; there are a few anchor-smiths, and weavers.

The

The rent of the houſes in North-Leith is valued at L. 500 per annum. The tithe of fiſh, which belongs to the kirk-ſeſſion, yields L. 63 : 10s, but that ariſes chiefly from the dry fiſh from Zetland; this was purchaſed from Lord Holyrood-houſe, who ſucceeded the abbot of that name, at 1800 merks, and is part of the fund for paying the miniſters ſtipend.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 1220 Scotch.

Haddocks uſed to be plenty on the coaſt, but of late they have diſappeared; they were in greateſt perfection in the months of May and June. There are abundance of lobſters, oyſters, and muſcles in the neighbourhood; the lobſters are in ſeaſon in the ſummer months; the oyſters and muſcles, from September to May. There are no ſea weeds of any conſequence, a few are ſometimes caſt aſhore with an Eaſt wind, but are ſcarce worth gathering for manure.

By an account taken from the cuſtom-houſe books, where an exact regiſter of ſhips belonging to the place is kept, it appears, that in the beginning of this year (1791), there were 165 veſſels of different burthens; their tonnage amounted to 16,445 tons, and they were navigated by 915 men and 70 boys. The principal trade of the place is to the Baltic, which of late years has greatly increaſed, and a number of ingenious ſpirited merchants have engaged in it.

Fortifications and Bridge.—A citadel was erected by Oliver Cromwell, with five baſtions, three of which remain, and two of the gates. It was in a great meaſure demoliſhed after the Reſtoration, and the ſite of it given to the Duke of Lauderdale, from whom the Council of Edinburgh were obliged to purchaſe it for the enormous ſum of L. 6000.—About ten years ago, a battery of nine guns was erected to the weſt of the citadel, for the defence of the harbour, occaſioned by the appearance of Paul Jones in the neighbourhood, with three arm-

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ed veſſels, who ſpread a general alarm over the whole coaſt, and threatened to deſtroy the ſhips both in the road, and in the harbour. An officer, with eighteen or twenty artillery men conſtantly reſide in the battery, and keep it in excellent order; it would accommodate a much larger number, and it has been propoſed to make it the head quarters of the company.

There was a ſtone bridge of three arches, acroſs the harbour, near the church, which was built originally by the abbots of Holyrood-houſe; and ſeems to have been rebuilt by the inhabitants of North Leith, in the year 1602. A toll was then levied upon it for every horſe, cow, and ſheep, and every man and woman with a burden; but there is no mention made of a carriage of any kind, which ſhews that there were then none in the country. The bridge became afterwards the property of the Town Council of Edinburgh, by a grant from Charles I. and is now removed to enlarge the harbour, a new draw bridge having been lately built, a little farther down. There is only one turnpike road in the pariſh, upon which there is a toll bar hard by the church yard.

Eccleſiaſtical State, and Poor.—The patronage is veſted in the heads of families; and to their honour, for theſe hundred years, they have been unanimous in the choice of their miniſters. The Archbiſhop of St. Andrews and the Biſhop of Edinburgh gave them a great deal of trouble, but the pariſhioners always prevailed.

Both the church and manſe are as old as the times of popery, but they have undergone a variety of repairs; the church received a very conſiderable one in the year 1736, when it was in a great meaſure rebuilt. Both the church and manſe are upheld by the kirk-ſeſſion, who likewiſe pay all the ſtipend, except 400 merks paid by the pariſh of St. Cuthbert's, in conſequence

quence of the baronies of Newhaven and Hillhouſefield being annexed to North Leith. The living altogether, including manſe and glebe, may be worth L. 140 per annum, but it depends much on the incumbent being well with his people; the legal ſtipend does not exceed L. 80. The reſt is voluntary.

The number of poor upon the kirk-ſeſſion's roll is about ſixty, and they are chiefly ſupported by the collections at the church doors; the ſum expended upon them, and in educating their children, is about L. 100 per annum. In the winter 1782, when the meal was at 2s 10d a ſtone, the inhabitants made a contribution for the relief of the indigent, by which means they got meal at 1s per peck, when the market price was 1s 5d.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The univerſal fuel is coal, which coſts about 10s 6d the deal of 23 cwt.

Beef and mutton vary according to the ſeaſon, at a medium they may be about 3½ or 4d per lb. It is ſomewhat remarkable that in the year 1781, when a fleet of near 600 ſail came to the road, and continued for ſeven or eight weeks, they did not raiſe the price of proviſions. Such a quantity of vivres of all kinds was crowded into the place, that near 30,000 ſtrangers were amply ſupplied, and the inhabitants felt no inconvenience; garden ſtuffs in particular abounded, which proved a moſt ſeaſonable relief to the ſeamen, many of whom were afflicted with the ſcurvy. Beſides the large fleet bound to the Baltic, there were fourteen ſhips of the line, and upwards of fifty merchantmen from Jamaica, which made a grand and beautiful appearance.

There is a light houſe with reflecting lamps at the mouth of the harbour, and a beacon a mile diſtant from thence.

There is an eſtabliſhed ſchool in the pariſh, where about 60 ſcholars attend. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is L. 8 : 6 : 8d, and he is allowed L. 5 annually, for being ſeſſion clerk. His

ſchool

school wages for teaching Latin, is 5s a quarter, for writing and arithmetic the same, and for reading English, 3s. His fees for proclamation of banns is 4s 10d, for registering births and baptisms 1s 2d.

A sunday school was established in the parish three years ago, where 100 children attend, and it is of the greatest benefit to the place; young people, who formerly were brought up in the profoundest ignorance, and grosly mispent the sabbath day, are now taught a reverence for it, and are educated in the principles of religion and morals. The master is allowed five guineas a year, by the Society for promoting Religious Knowledge among the Poor.

It might have been necessary to have enlarged this part of the work considerably, and for that purpose to have made more extensive inquiries into the statistical circumstances of Edinburgh and its neighbourhood, had not William Creech, Esq. a respectable magistrate of that city, paid particular attention to such inquiries, which led him, some years ago, to draw up a comparative view of Edinburgh in 1763 and 1783; containing many curious particulars, not only relative to that city, but to Scotland in general, with many important observations in regard to the changes which had taken place in that period in the mode of living, arts, commerce, literature, manners, &c. of the inhabitants. As Mr Creech very readily agreed to carry down that information to the present period, it precludes the necessity of any farther investigation of that nature. The reader is therefore referred to the following appendix for the statistical progress, and present state of Edinburgh, and also for an interesting paper respecting such extraordinary physical phenomena as have occurred in Scotland, for some years past.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

TO

VOLUME SIXTH

OF THE

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

LETTERS,

ADDRESSED TO

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

RESPECTING THE

MODE OF LIVING, ARTS, COMMERCE, LITERATURE, MANNERS, *&c.*

OF

EDINBURGH,

IN 1763,

AND SINCE THAT PERIOD.

ILLUSTRATING THE

STATISTICAL PROGRESS OF THE CAPITAL OF SCOTLAND.

TOGETHER WITH

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE PHYSICAL PHENOMENA IN SCOTLAND FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS.

EDINBURGH.—M DCC XCIII.

LETTERS

TO

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

LETTER FIRST.

Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis.

SIR,

I HAVE often thought, that it might not only be entertaining, but uſeful, to remark, from time to time, the viciſſitudes in civilized ſociety, and the progreſs of its manners; and, by comparing the preſent with the paſt, to examine, whether, as individuals, or as a people, we were improving or declining.

It is frequently difficult to aſſign a reaſon for the revolutions which take place in the circumſtances and manners of a country, or to trace the cauſes that have occaſioned a change; but, it is evident that the firſt ſtep towards inveſtigating the cauſe, is to ſtate the facts. A plan of this kind, frequently repeated, might be of great utility, by leading to cultivation and improvement in ſome things, and to correction or prohibition in others; while it would, at the ſame time, afford a valuable fund

fund of facts for the annaliſt, the philoſopher, and the hiſtorian.

Every perſon, whoſe recollection extends but to a few years paſt, muſt be ſenſible of a very ſtriking difference in the external appearance of Edinburgh, and alſo in the mode of living, trade, and manners of the people.

Let us ſtate a compariſon, for inſtance, no farther back than between the year 1763 and the year 1783, and from thence to 1793, and many features of the preſent time will probably appear prominent and ſtriking, which, in the gradual progreſs of ſociety, have paſſed altogether unnoticed, or have been but faintly perceived. So remarkable a change is not perhaps to be equalled, in ſo ſhort a period, in any city of Europe; nor in the ſame city for two centuries, taking all the alterations together.—When the plans at preſent in contemplation are completed, Edinburgh will be the moſt beautiful and pictureſque city in the world.

In 1763—Edinburgh was almoſt entirely confined within the city-walls. The ſuburbs were of ſmall extent. Nicolſon's Street and Square, Chapel-ſtreet, the greater part of Briſto-ſtreet, Crichton-ſtreet, George's Square*, Teviot-row, Buccleugh-ſtreet, St Patrick's Square, &c. &c. to the ſouth, were fields and orchards. To the north, there was no bridge; and (till of late) the New Town, with all its elegant and magnificent buildings, ſquares, rows, courts, &c. extending upwards of a mile in length, and near half a mile in breadth, did not exiſt †. It may with truth be ſaid, that there is not now

NOTES.

* What is now George's Square was in 1763 Roſs-Park. It was purchaſed for L.1200; and the ground-rents now yield above L.1000 ſterling *per annum* to the proprietor.

† The North Bridge was nearly completed in 1769, when one arch, and the

now in Europe a more beautiful terrace than Prince's Street; nor a more elegant ſtreet than George-ſtreet. The views from Queen-ſtreet, to the north, exhibit a ſcene of grandeur and beauty unparallelled in any city.

It is a moderate calculation to ſay, that three millions Sterling have been expended on building, and public improvements, in and about the city of Edinburgh, ſince 1763; the environs of which cannot be ſurpaſſed in views of the ſublime, the picturesque, and the beautiful.

In 1763—People of quality and faſhion lived in houſes, which, in 1783, were inhabited by tradeſmen, or by people in humble and ordinary life. The *Lord Juſtice Clerk Tinwald's* houſe was poſſeſſed by a *French Teacher*—*Lord Preſident Craigie's* houſe by a *Rouping-wife* or *Sales-woman of old furniture* —and *Lord Drummore's* houſe was left by a *Chairman* for want of accommodation *.

In 1786—A bridge to the ſouth, over the Cowgate ſtreet, was built, and the areas for building ſhops and houſes on the eaſt and weſt ſide of it, ſold higher than perhaps ever was known in any city, (even in Rome, during the moſt flouriſhing times of the

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NOTES.

the abutments to the ſouth, fell ſuddenly on the 8th of Auguſt of that year, and buried 9 people in the ruins.

Three or four ſcattered houſes were then built in the New Town. It was ſeveral years after the bridge was rebuilt, before people took courage to erect houſes in the New Town.

* The houſe of the Duke of Douglas at the Union, is now poſſeſſed by a wheel-wright. Oliver Cromwell once lived in the late gloomy Chambers of the Sheriff Clerk. The great Marquis of Argyle's houſe, in the Caſtlehill, was poſſeſſed by a hoſier, at L. 12 *per annum*. The houſe of the late Preſident Dundas who died in Dec. 1787, is now poſſeſſed by an iron-monger, as his dwelling houſe and ware-room.—A houſe lately inhabited by one of the preſent Lords of Seſſion is now poſſeſſed by a Taylor.

the republic or the empire), to wit, at the rate of no leſs than L. 96,000 *per* ſtatute acre; and ſome areas at the rate of L. 109,000 *per* acre:—and, in 1790, the area at the eaſt end of Milne's Square, ſold for above L. 151,000 *per* acre!

In March 1792—The ground for 9 houſes on the north of Charlotte's Square ſold for L. 2480 or L. 9 per foot in front, beſides L. 6 yearly, for every 42 feet in front.

The foundation-ſtone of the South Bridge, over the ſtreet of the Cowgate, was laid on the 1ſt of Auguſt, 1785 *. The Bridge, conſiſting of 22 arches, was built—the old houſes were removed—elegant new houſes on both ſides were finiſhed—the ſhops occupied—and the ſtreet opened for carriages in March 1788—an operation of aſtoniſhing celerity!——By this change, Niddry's, Merlin's, and Pebbles' wynds (or lanes) were annihilated; and the oldeſt ſtone building in Edinburgh was pulled down, where Queen Mary lodged the night after the battle of Carberry hill †. It was then the houſe of Sir Simon Preſton of Craigmiller, Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, 1567.

In 1783—A communication (towards the Caſtle) between the Old and the New City, was begun by means of an immenſe mound of earth, above 800 feet in length, acroſs a deep moraſs, and made paſſable for carriages in 3 years. Whilſt the mound was forming, it ſunk at different periods, above 80 feet on the weſt ſide, and was again filled up. Eighteen hundred cart-loads of earth, from the foundations of the houſes then digging in the New Town, were (upon an average) laid upon

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NOTES.

* On digging the foundation, which was no leſs than 22 feet deep, many coins of Edward I. II. and III. were found.

† See an Account and Plate of this Houſe in the Gentleman's Magazine, about three or four years ago.

upon this mound, every day. This is a work unrivalled by any but Alexander the Great's at Tyre *.

The extent of Edinburgh at present is as follows.—From the west end of Fountain-bridge, to the east end of Abbay Hill is above two English miles. From Broughton on the north to the Grange Toll-bar on the south, is about two English miles.—The circumference, by the report of a Gentleman who walked round it with a view to ascertain this point, is as nearly as he could estimate, seven English miles.

In 1786—The valued rents of houses in Edinburgh, which pay cess or land tax, were more than double what they were in 1763; and in 1791 they were more than triple †.

NOTES.

* The height of this mound, from the surface of the ground, which was formerly a lake, is at the south end 92 feet, and at the north end 58 feet. The quantity of earth that appears at present above the surface, measures 290,167 cubical yards; and, it is moderate to say, that half as much is below the surface. This makes the mound, as it stands at present, 435,250 cubical yards of travelled or carried earth. Then, allowing three cart-loads to each cubical yard of earth, there must be 1,305,750 cart-loads in this mound! It began by the magistrates accommodating the builders in the New Town with a place to lay their rubbish; and this noble and useful communication cost the city only the expence of spreading the earth. Had the city paid for digging and driving the earth, it would have cost them L. 32,643:15 sterling,—supposing the digging, carting, and driving, as low as 6d. per cart-load. It is not yet nearly completed to its full breadth.

† In 1635—The rents within the city were	L. 19,211	10	0
In 1688,	24,353	6	8
In 1751,	31,497	0	0
In 1783,	54,371	0	0
In 1786—The valued rents were above	66,000	0	0
In 1792,	68,997	10	0
In 1791, with Leith and Canongate,	103,922	0	0
In 1792, do.	106,602	0	0

N. B.

In 1763—The revenue of the Post Office of Edinburgh was L. 11,942 *per annum.*

In 1783—The same revenue was upwards of L. 40,000, and is since much increased *.

In 1763—There were two stage-coaches, with three horses, a coachman, and postilion to each coach, which went to the port of Leith (a mile and a half distant) every hour from eight in the morning till eight at night, and consumed a full hour upon the road. There were no other stage-coaches in Scotland, except one, which set out once a month for London, and it was from *twelve* to *sixteen* days upon the journey.

In 1783—There were five or six stage-coaches to Leith every half hour, which ran it in fifteen minutes. DUNN, who opened the magnificent hotels in the New Town, was the first person who attempted a stage-coach to Dalkeith, a village six miles distant.—There are now stage-coaches, flies, and diligences, to every considerable town in Scotland, and to many of them two, three, four, and five: To London there were no

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N. B.—One-fifth is deducted from the real rent in stating the cess.—— Leith and Canongate are not included in the above, (except in the two last article,) though now one city with Edinburgh. The valuation is confined to the royalty only. Arnot thinks the real rent is a half more than the valued rent. See his Hist. p. 339.

* In 1698, Sir Robert Sinclair of Stevenson had a grant from King William of the whole revenue of the Post Office of Scotland, with a pension of L. 300 *per annum*, to keep up the post. Sir Robert, after deliberation, gave up the grant, as thinking it disadvantageous.

A curious fact may also be here inserted. In 1634, Charles I. gave a grant to Messrs Dalmahoy, and Davidson, for the exclusive sale of Tobacco in the kingdom of Scotland, for the space of seven years, upon their paying into the Exchequer L. 100. *per annum.*—From 1790 to 1791, the revenue arising from Tobacco (Customs and Excise) was L. 62,211 : 6.

no less than sixty stage-coaches monthly, or fifteen every week, and they reached the capital in four days:—And, in 1786, two of these stage-coaches, (which set out daily), reached London in *sixty hours*, by the same road that required *twelve* or *sixteen days* for the established coach in 1763 *.

In 1763—The hackney-coaches in Edinburgh were few in number, and perhaps the worst of the kind in Britain.

In 1783—The number of hackney-coaches was more than tripled, and they were the handsomest carriages, and had the best horses for the purpose, of any without exception, in Europe. In 1790, many elegant hackney-chariots were added. There are no other of the kind in Britain that ply the streets†.

In 1783—Triple the number of merchants, physicians, surgeons, &c. kept their own carriages, that ever did in any former period; and the number is since increased.

In 1783—Several Presbyterian ministers in Edinburgh, and Professors in the University, kept their own carriages; a circumstance which, in a circumscribed walk of life as to income, does honour to the literary abilities of many of them, and is unequalled in any former period of the history of the Church, or of the University.

In 1763—Literary property, or authors acquiring money by their writings, was hardly known in Scotland: David

NOTES.

* A person may now set out on Sunday afternoon after divine service from Edinburgh to London; may stay a whole day in London; and be again in Edinburgh on Saturday at six in the morning! The distance from Edinburgh to London is 400 miles.——Forty years ago, it was common for people to make their will, before setting out on a London journey.

† One hackney-coach lately cost a hundred guineas, and the two horses eighty guineas.

Hume and Dr Robertſon had indeed, a very few years before, ſold ſome of their works; the one, a part of the Hiſtory of Britain, for L. 200; the other, the Hiſtory of Scotland, for L. 600;—each 2 vols. in quarto.

In 1783—The value of literary property was carried higher by the Scots than ever was known among any people. David Hume received L. 5000 for the remainder of his Hiſtory of Britain; and Dr Robertſon, for his ſecond work, received L. 4500. In ſermon-writing the Scots have alſo excelled; and, although, in 1763, they were reckoned remarkably deficient in this ſpecies of compoſition, yet, 1783, a miniſter of Edinburgh, wrote the moſt admired ſermons that ever were publiſhed, and obtained the higheſt price that ever was given for any work of the kind.

N. B. The merit of theſe ſermons obtained for Dr Blair a penſion of L. 200 *per annum.*

Previous to 1763, the Scots had made no very diſtinguiſhed figure in literature as writers, particularly in the departments of Hiſtory and Belles Lettres. Lord Kames had, in the year before, (in 1762), publiſhed his Elements of Criticiſm; Hume and Robertſon had made their firſt eſſays in the line of Hiſtory, a ſhort time before, as mentioned above.

In 1783—The Scots had diſtinguiſhed themſelves in a remarkable manner in many departments of literature; and, within the ſhort period of twenty years, Hume, Robertſon, Kames, Orme, Dalrymples (Sir David and Sir John), Henry, Tytlers (father and ſon), Watſon, Reid, Beattie, Oſwald, Ferguſon, Smith, Monboddo (Burnet), Gregories (father and ſon), Cullen, Homes (poet and phyſician), Monros (father and ſon), Black, Duncan, Hunter, Stewart (father and ſon,) Stuart (Dr Gilbert), Blair, Mackenzie, Campbell, Gerard, Miller, Macpherſon, Brydone, Moore, Smellie, Mickle, Gillies, Adam, Sinclair,

Sinclair, and many other eminent writers, too numerous to mention, have appeared.

In 1764—A riding ſchool was built by ſubſcription, 124 feet long by 42 broad. This inſtitution afterwards received a Royal charter, with a ſalary of L. 200 *per annum* to the maſter.

In 1764—The firſt academy in the kingdom, for teaching language and ſcience to the deaf and dumb, was begun.

In 1764—The Speculative Society was inſtituted by ſix ſtudents then at the Univerſity, for improvement in compoſition and public ſpeaking. This Society afterwards built a hall within the Univerſity, and furniſhed a Library for the uſe of the Members. The inſtitution has been highly uſeful. It can now boaſt of eminent members in the Senate, in the Pulpit, in Profeſſors chairs in the Univerſities, at the Bar, in Medicine, and in various departments of life.

In 1783—The Society of Antiquaries was conſtituted by Royal charter; and in 1792, publiſhed the firſt volume of their Tranſactions.

In 1783—The Royal Society of Edinburgh was conſtituted by Royal charter, and publiſhed the firſt volume of their Tranſactions in March 1788, and a ſecond in 1790.

From 1780 to 1786—Edinburgh produced two periodical papers, the Mirror, and the Lounger, which have met with much public approbation. No other periodical paper of note has appeared in Britain ſince the World and the Connoiſſeur, in 1753 and 1754.

In 1786--A Chamber of Commerce was conſtituted by Royal charter, for protecting and encouraging the commercial and manufacturing intereſts of the country. This inſtitution has led the public attention to many uſeful objects, and has obtained many ſalutary regulations and laws reſpecting the general commerce of the country.

There

There was no law, in Scotland, making the wilful ſinking of ſhips a capital crime, till obtained by means of this chamber.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Chamber are printed every year, and diſtributed to the members on the third Wedneſday of January.

In 1790—A ſociety for the improvement of wool was inſtituted by Sir John Sinclair. This inſtitution has had the effect of rouſing attention to this valuable article of manufacture; and has excited much emulation among the farmers and gentlemen. Much labour and expence has been beſtowed in collecting the beſt breeds of ſheep, foreign and domeſtic, and ſpreading them over the country.

In 1791—A Society was inſtituted by a few lay ſons of Clergymen, for the benefit of the children of the clergy of the eſtabliſhed church of Scotland; and in 1792, the ſubſcribers to this laudable purpoſe were ſo conſiderable, that they obtained a Royal charter of Incorporation.

The ſtipends of the clergy, it muſt be allowed, have not kept pace with the increaſing progreſs and commerce of the country. It is of great importance to ſociety that ſome means ſhould be deviſed to make the ſituation of their families as comfortable as poſſible.

In 1763—The ſtock of the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge amounted to L. 30,000.

In 1792, the ſame ſtock amounted to about L. 100,000. This fund it is believed is moſt faithfully applied to the object of the inſtitution. An hundred and ſixty thouſand children have been educated by this ſociety, and there are ten thouſand in their ſchools this year 1792.

The Fund eſtabliſhed in 1744 for the Miniſters widows had been calculated on ſuch juſt principles, that in 1792 the ſtock

was

was above L. 90,000.—This ſtock is lent out at preſent on he-table ſecurity, at 4½ per cent.

In 1789—The foundation of a magnificent New College was laid on the 16th of November; the old college having become ruinous, and the claſs-rooms being unfit to contain the number of ſtudents who reſorted to this celebrated ſchool of ſcience and literature. So popular was this meaſure, that in five months the voluntary ſubſcriptions amounted to L. 16,869, and they are now L. 31,600. The eſtimate for completing the whole is about L. 63,000.—The ſix columns in the front of this elegant new building are not to be equalled in Britain. The ſhaft of each is 23 feet high, and 3 feet diameter, of one entire ſtone.

In 1763—The number of ſtudents at the college of Edinburgh was about 500.

In 1791—The number of ſtudents entered in the college books was 1255.—And in 1792 the number was 1306.

In 1777—A new, elegant, and commodious edifice for a Grammar-ſchool was built by voluntary ſubſcriptions.—This ſchool-houſe coſt L. 4000. It conſiſts of one great hall, five teaching rooms, and a library, with ſmaller apartments.

In 1763—The number of boys at the grammar ſchool was not more than 200.

In 1783—The number of boys at the grammar-ſchool was 500.—It is believed, the moſt numerous ſchool in Britain.

In 1788—A magnificent pile of building was finiſhed, for keeping the public records and papers of Scotland, called the Regiſter Office. It had been about 18 years in its progreſs, from the time of laying the foundation ſtone. It has coſt L. 36,000.

In 1788—A large and expenſive building was erected by ſubſcription, called the Circus, for the purpoſe of exhibiting feats of horſemanſhip, and pantomime entertainments. The money

money received the first 4 months of this exhibition was L. 3000.

In 1792—The Circus was converted into a Play-house, and Edinburgh has now two regular Theatres.

In 1763—There were two newspapers, printed in very small folio, and the advertisements in each were from 10 to 20.

In 1783—The half of an Edinburgh newspaper, which was bought in 1740, for L. 36, was sold for 1300.

In 1790—There were four established newspapers.—And in 1792 six newspapers *. The size of the paper is as large as any of the kind in Britain, and the advertisements in some of them are from 60 to 100, sometimes more, notwithstanding a heavy and increased duty both on the paper and advertisements.

In 1780—A regiment (the 80th) of 1000 men was raised by the voluntary contributions of the citizens, in two months.

In 1763—There were 396 four wheeled carriages entered to pay duty, and 462 two-wheeled carriages.

In 1790—There were 1427 four-wheeled carriages entered to pay duty, and 462 two-wheeled: And of wains and carts 6450. Till of late the wains and carts could not be ascertained.

In 1763—Few coaches or chaises were made in Edinburgh. The nobility and gentry, in general, brought their carriages from London; and Paris was reckoned the place in Europe where the most elegant carriages were constructed.

In 1783—Coaches and chaises were constructed as elegantly in Edinburgh as any where in Europe; and, it may be added, stronger

NOTE.

* The newspapers printed in Edinburgh, December 1792, are 1*st*, The Courant;—2*d*, the Mercury;—3*d*, the Advertiser;—4*th*, the Herald;—5*th*, the Caledonian Chronicle;—6*th*, the Gazetteer.

ſtronger and cheaper. Many were yearly exported to Peterſburgh, and the cities on the Baltic; and there was in 1783 an order from Paris to a coachmaker in Edinburgh, for one thouſand crane-necked carriages, to be executed in three years. This trade has ſince greatly increaſed.

In 1763—There was no ſuch profeſſion known as a Haberdaſher.

In 1783—The profeſſion of a Haberdaſher (which includes many trades, the Mercer, the Milliner, the Linen-draper, the Hatter, the Hoſier, the Glover, and many others), was nearly the moſt common in town; and they have ſince multiplied greatly.

In 1763—There was no ſuch profeſſion known as a Perfumer: Barbers and Wigmakers were numerous, and were in the order of decent burgeſſes: Hairdreſſers were few, and hardly permitted to dreſs hair on Sundays; and many of them voluntarily declined it.

In 1783—Perfumers had ſplendid ſhops in every principal ſtreet: Some of them advertiſed the keeping of bears, to kill occaſionally, for greaſing ladies and gentlemens hair, as ſuperior to any other *animal fat.* Hairdreſſers were more than tripled in number; and their buſieſt day was Sunday. There was a profeſſor who advertiſed *A Hair-dreſſing Academy*, and gave lectures on that *noble and uſeful art.*

In 1763—There were no Iron Founderies near Edinburgh; —The Carron Company's work was the only one of the kind in Scotland, and it had been eſtabliſhed but a few years.

In 1792—There were many extenſive Iron Founderies in Scotland, and ſeveral in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.—Caſt iron which was formerly imported, is now exported in great quantities.

In 1792—There are ſeveral Button Manufactories lately eſtabliſhed in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh which were unknown in any former period.

In 1792—Manufactories of ſhawls and caſſimirs have been lately eſtabliſhed and brought to wonderful perfection.

It is eſtimated that the conſumpt of coals in Edinburgh (on an average) amounts to 500 tons per day.

In 1763—The Starch manufacture was little known or practiſed; and only about 37,000 pounds weight were manufactured.

In 1790—There were ſeveral Starch manufactories. The quantity entered was about 750,000 pounds weight.——The increaſe, 713,000 lib.

N. B. A very great proportion of this is uſed for hair-powder; but the quantity cannot be aſcertained, as the whole is entered under the denomination STARCH.——One ſtarch manufacturer has paid at the rate of L. 700 of duty, every ſix weeks.

In 1763—The revenue ariſing from the Diſtillery, in Scotland, amounted to L. 4739 : 18 : 10d.

In 1783—The revenue ariſing from the Diſtillery amounted to L. 192,000; conſequently 600,000 gallons of ſpirits muſt at leaſt have been diſtilled *. Since July 1786, the duty has been levied by licence on the contents of the ſtills. The quantity that might reaſonably be expected from the number of ſtills entered ſhould be thus:

In the Lowlands	1,000,000	
In the Highlands	696,000	
Total	1,696,000	gallons of ſpirits.

N. B.

NOTE.

* In 1708—the year of the Union, the quantity of ſpirits diſtilled from malted corn was 50,844½ gallons.

In 1760—145,46 gallons

In 1784—268,503 gallons.

In 1791—1,696,000 gallons! as above.

N. B. The Legiſlature would ſurely act wiſely, by lowering the duty on malt liquor; and increaſing it on ſpirits.—Ardent ſpirits, ſo eaſily obtained, are hurtful to the health, induſtry, and morals of the people.

In 1763—The groſs revenue of the Exciſe was about L. 130,200

In 1790—The groſs revenue of the Exciſe was about L. 500,000.

At the time of the Union there were no Stamp duties in Scotland.

In 1790—The revenue on Stamps was above L. 80,000 per annum.

In 1763—There was one Glaſs-houſe at Leith, for the manufacture of green bottles.

In 1783—There were three Glaſs-houſes;—in 1790 there were ſix; and as fine chryſtal and window glaſs is made at Leith as any where in Europe.

In 1763—The quantity of Glaſs manufactured in Scotland amounted to 1,769,712 pounds weight.

In 1790—The quantity of Glaſs manufactured, amounted to 9,059,904 pounds weight.—Increaſe 7,290,192.

In 1763—There were three Paper mills in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.

In 1790—There were twelve Paper mills in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh; and a vaſt quantity of Printing Paper was ſent to London, from whence it uſed formerly to be brought. Some of theſe Paper mills are upon a more extenſive ſcale than any in Britain.

In 1763—The quantity of Paper manufactured was 6400 reams.

In 1791—The quantity of Paper manufactured was upwards of 100,000 reams. Increaſe 93,600 reams.

N. B.

N. B. Notwithstanding the astonishing increase of stamp-duty, and of paper manufactured, yet Scotland must bring all her stamped paper from London. The very carriage of the stamped paper to Edinburgh, it is believed, costs Government L. 700 *per annum*, when it could be stamped at Edinburgh for a trifle, and the manufacture of paper thereby greatly encouraged. The present mode appears to be neither just nor politic.—By the articles of the Union, Scotland is entitled to have a board of Stamps.

In 1763—There were six Printing-houses in Edinburgh,

In 1790—There were sixteen Printing-houses in Edinburgh.

In 1763—The printed Cottons manufactured amounted to 150,000 yards.

In 1790—The printed Cottons manufactured amounted to 4,500,000 yards. Increase, 4,335,000 yards.

In 1763—The Royal Bank Stock sold at the rate of L. 160 *per cent.*—In 1791, Royal Bank *new* Stock sold at L. 240 *per cent.*

N. B. It would be too tedious to enter into a detail of the history and progress of this Bank.——The capital at present is above L. 600,000; and the liberal support it has given to the landed, commercial, and manufacturing interests of Scotland, has added greatly to the prosperity of the country.

The original shares of the Bank of Scotland, or Old Bank, of L. 83 : 6 : 8, sold, in 1763, at L. 119; and, in 1791, at L. 180.

N. B. This bank has lately obtained an act of Parliament for doubling its capital, or to raise it from L. 300,000 to L. 600,000.

The British Linen Company's Stock, in 1763, and for many years later, sold at L. 40 *per cent.* below par.

In

In 1792—L. 336 of the ſtock of this company ſold for L. 545, that is L. 162 : 4 : 1½ *per cent.*

In the year 1769—The Douglas and Co. Bank was inſtituted, and the ſtock ſubſcribed amounted to L. 150,000.—In a few years after, this bank by miſmanagement failed; and it is ſaid, this failure occaſioned land to be brought into the market, to the value of L. 750,000.

Although this loſs was hurtful to many individuals, the country was highly benefited; for the money having been beſtowed principally on the improvement of the ſoil, the gain was laſting, and general.

In 1763—Heriot's Hoſpital, which holds a great deal of land in the vicinity of Edinburgh, gave feus * of their ground at the rate of from 3 to 4 bolls of barley *per* acre *per annum.*

In 1790—Heriot's Hoſpital feued their land at the rate of from 8 to 10 bolls *per* acre yearly.

N. B. George Heriot, who founded this hoſpital for the education of boys, was jeweller to James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England. He furniſhed jewels to Prince Charles, afterwards King Charles I. when he went to the court of Spain, 1623.

Theſe jewels were never paid for by James; but, when Charles I. came to the throne, the debt to Heriot was allowed to his truſtees, in part of their purchaſe of the barony of Broughton, then crown-lands in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. Theſe lands are now a part of the foundation of this Hoſpital, the revenue of which is at preſent between L. 3000 and L. 4000 *per annum.*

The ſum that now produces this revenue, was, in 1627.

L.

NOTE.

* A feu means a perpetual grant, on payment of a certain ſum, or acknowledgement yearly, as may be agreed upon.

L. 29,325 : 10 : 1½; which was lent out for many years at interest. The building of the Hospital, (from a plan by Inigo Jones), cost L 27,000.—Interest of money then was 10 *per cent.*——There are 125 boys in the Hospital, who are maintained and educated from 7 to 14 years.

The Trinity Hospital is a charitable foundation for decayed burgesses, or their widows and daughters, not under 50 years of age. The revenue in land, houses, and interest of money is about L. 1100 *per annum.*—There are 54 old men and women in the Hospital,—viz. 14 men and 40 women.

The Merchant Maiden Hospital is a charitable foundation for the education and maintenance of daughters of Merchant burgesses of Edinburgh, from 8 years of age to 15. The revenue is about L. 1400 *per annum.* There are 80 girls in this Hospital at present.

The Trades Maiden Hospital, is a charitable foundation for the daughters of decayed tradesmen, members of the 14 incorporations. They are educated from 8 years of age to 15.——The revenue is about L. 650 *per annum.*—There are 60 girls in the Hospital.

Watson's Hospital is a charitable foundation for the education of boys, the sons or grandsons of decayed merchants members of the Merchant Company. The sum mortified for this purpose by George Watson, a merchant in 1727 was L. 12,000.—The revenue of this Hospital is now nearly L. 2000 *per annum.* The boys are maintained and educated from eight to fifteen years of age. When put out apprentices, an apprentice-fee of L. 25 is allowed; and, if they have behaved well during their apprenticeship, they are allowed L. 50 to begin the world. There are 70 boys in this Hospital.

The Orphan Hospital is a charitable foundation for maintaining and educating orphans (boys and girls) from any quarter of the kingdom. They are received at 7, and remain till

13 or 14 years of age. They are taught various trades. They make all their own clothes, ſhoes, bind their own books, &c. There are 160 boys and girls in this hoſpital.

The ſtock of the Royal Infirmary, which in 1750 was L. 5000, in 1790 was L. 36,000.——This Infirmary admits above 2000 patients annually; and, on an average, one only in 25 dies. This, on compariſon with other hoſpitals, is not to be equalled in Europe. An account of the moſt celebrated hoſpitals in Europe has been publiſhed; and, in ſome, 1 in 11 dies; in others, 1 in 13, and 1 in 16. It is daily attended by three phyſicians; and the members of the royal College of ſurgeons attend monthly in their turns.——During the ſitting of the College, (from October to May), two of the Profeſſors of Medicine give clinical lectures, on the caſes of a ſelected number of patients.

In 1763, One hundred ſtudents attended the Infirmary.

In 1791, Three hundred and twenty-three ſtudents attended the Infirmary.

In 1776, A public Diſpenſary was built by ſubſcription, and ſupported by voluntary contributions.——This charity is for patients afflicted with chronic diſeaſes, or ſuch as render admiſſion to an hoſpital improper or unneceſſary. They receive advice and medicine gratis; and, in the year 1791, no leſs than 15,450 patients had been relieved.

The firſt ſpring water brought to ſupply Edinburgh was in 1681. A leaden pipe of 3 *inches* bore was then laid from Comiſton, about 3½ miles ſouth weſt of the city, by one Bruſchi, a German engineer, and there was no other pipe completed till about the year 1722, when one of 4½ *inches* was laid. Theſe in time were found inſufficient for ſupplying the inhabitants; and, in 1787, an iron pipe of 5 *inches* diameter was added.—

A second iron pipe of 7 *inches* diameter was laid in 1790; and additional springs 3 miles farther south than the former were taken in.—These pipes have cost the city of Edinburgh an immense sum of money, the last one having cost above L. 20,000. The reservoir on the Castle-hill contains about 300 tons, and the new one at Heriot's hospital contains nearly the same quantity. Edinburgh is amply supplied with as fine spring water as any in Europe, and Leith now partakes of the same advantage. On the 10th of May 1782, after 3 weeks of drought, these springs at the fountain head, yielded 1060 Scots pints (or 4240 English) per minute, or 3000 tons in 24 hours.—— After supplying all the inhabitants, a large stream of limpid water runs down the streets for many hours day and night. The like is not to be equalled, it is believed in Europe, except at Bern in Switzerland *.

In

NOTE.

* The increase of inhabitants may, in some measure, be judged of from the above circumstance: Before the above period they must have been supplied with water from pit wells, of which great numbers were on the south of the Cowgate-street. The increase of inhabitants also appears from a list of families taken *Anno* 1687, in the six parishes of which the Old Town of Edinburgh then consisted. The number was as follows:

In the North-west parish, or Tolbooth kirk	Families	513
North parish, or High kirk		389
North parish, or College kirk		470
South-west parish, or Old Greyfriars		672
South parish, or Old kirk		625
South-east parish, or Tron kirk		664
	Total Families	3,333

At an average of six to each family, the number of inhabitants would have been at that time 19,998, within the walls of the city.——Like London, the suburbs are now more extensive than the city.

In 1775—The number of *families* in Edinburgh, Leith, and the suburbs, as far

In 1763—The ſhore-dues at Leith (a ſmall tax paid to the city of Edinburgh on landing goods at the quays) amounted to L. 580.

In 1783—The Shore-dues at Leith were upwards of L. 4000.

N. B. There was a conſiderable importation of grain to the port of Leith in 1783, not leſs than L. 800,000 ſterling having gone out of Scotland for this year's deficiency of grain. But the Shore-dues are often above L. 3,500 *per annum*, independent of any extraordinary importation. From Nov. 1788 to Nov. 1789, they were L. 3455 : 14 : 4. ——This revenue, from its nature, muſt be fluctuating.

In 1763, and for ſome years after—There was one ſhip that made an annual voyage to Peterſburgh; and never brought tallow, if any other cargo offered. Three tons of tallow were imported into Leith in 1763, which came from Newcaſtle.

In 1783—The ſhips from Leith and the Firth of Forth to the Baltic amounted to ſome hundreds. They make two voyages in the year, and ſometimes three. In 1786, above 2500 tons of tallow were imported directly from the Baltic into Leith.

NOTE.

far as could be aſcertained, by a ſurvey for road money, (many induſtriouſly avoiding the ſurvey) amounted to 13,806; this, at the ſame rate of ſix to a family, (which is held to be a proper ground of calculation in Edinburgh) makes the number of inhabitants 82,836. Beſides, this number is excluſive of the Caſtle, all the hoſpitals, poor houſes, infirmary, diſpenſary, &c.—— Arnot, upon the ſame data, ſays 80,836—but this is a typographical error.—Since 1775, the city and ſuburbs have been much extended; and the inhabitants muſt alſo have greatly increaſed.

N. B. It is a ſtriking fact, that either the former population of Edinburgh has been very erroneouſly repreſented, or the luxury of the preſent inhabitants has increaſed in a very uncommon degree; becauſe, without much apparent increaſe of population, the valued rent of the city and ſuburbs, according to the ceſs-books, has been more than doubled.

Leith. The importation of Baltic goods into Leith is ſurpaſſed by only one, or at moſt two ports in Britain.

In 1763—Every ſhip from London or Peterſburgh to Leith brought part of her cargo in ſoap.

In 1783—Every ſhip that went from Leith to London carried away part of her cargo in ſoap.

In 1763—The quantity of ſoap manufactured was half a million of pounds weight.

In 1790—The quantity of ſoap manufactured was ſix millions of pounds. Increaſe five millions and an half.

In 1763—The quantity of candles that were entered amounted to 1,400,000 lbs.

In 1780—The quantity was 2,200,000 lbs.

In 1791—The quantity was 3,000,000 lbs. The increaſe of this article ſhews the progreſs of manufactures, for it is believed few candles are either imported or exported.

In 1783—The increaſe of tonnage in ſhipping, belonging to the port of Leith ſince 1763, was 42,234 tons; and ſince that period, has ſo greatly increaſed, that magnificent plans have been formed for enlarging the preſent harbour, which is found much too ſmall for the number of ſhips reſorting to it —In 1791, the regiſtered tonnage at Leith was 130,000 tons.

In 1763—There was no ſuch thing known, or uſed, as an umbrella; but an eminent ſurgeon who had occaſion to walk a great deal in the courſe of his buſineſs, uſed one about the year 1780; and in 1783, umbrellas were much uſed, and continue to be ſo, and many umbrella warehouſes are opened, and a conſiderable trade carried on in this article. ——The faſhion is ſpread through Scotland.

In 1763—The wages to maid-ſervants were, generally, from L. 3, to L. 4, a year. They dreſſed decently in blue or red cloaks, or in plaids, ſuitable to their ſtations.

In

In 1783—The wages are nearly the ſame; but their dreſs and appearance are greatly altered, the maid-ſervants dreſſing almoſt as fine as their miſtreſſes did in 1763.

In 1763—Few families had men-ſervants. The wages were from L. 6 to L. 10 *per annum.*

In 1783 and 1791—Almoſt every genteel family had a man-ſervant; and the wages were from L. 10 to L. 20 a year.

In 1763—A ſtranger coming to Edinburgh was obliged to put up at a dirty uncomfortable inn, or to remove to private lodgings. There was no ſuch place as an Hotel; the word indeed was not known, or was only intelligible to perſons acquainted with the French.

In 1783—A ſtranger might have been accommodated, not only comfortably, but moſt elegantly, at many public Hotels; and the perſon who, in 1763, was obliged to put up with accommodation little better than that of a waggoner or carrier, may now be lodged like a prince, and command every luxury of life. His guinea, it muſt be acknowledged, will not go quite ſo far as it did in 1763.

The quantity of wheat made into flour at the water of Leith Mills, belonging to the incorporation of bakers, was as follows.

	Mid Lothian Bolls *.
In 1750	22,762
In 1760	33,887
In 1770	42,895
In 1791	48,257

This

NOTE.

* Two Bolls are nearly equal to an Engliſh quarter, or $\frac{59}{100}$ parts leſs; or equal to about half a peck.

This gives the proportional increase at these mills only; for besides these, there are Bell's Mills, Silver Mills, Canon Mills, Leith Mills, &c. that grind flour for the city, all of which have increased their quantities in proportion. The bakers of Dalkeith, Musselburgh, and Laswade, also send flour and bread to the Edinburgh market. There must now be above 150,000 bolls of wheat annually consumed in this metropolis.

The quantity of butcher meat, can only be ascertained by the number of hides; and, for that reason, no account can be obtained of the quantity brought to the Edinburgh market by the country butchers, who bring a great deal thrice every week throughout the year.

The number killed in Edinburgh is as follows.

In 1775—8,354 oxen,—6,792 calves,—39,370 sheep—47,360 lambs.

In 1776, Edinburgh and Leith included,—10,091 oxen,—8,305 calves, 49,212 sheep, 78,076 lambs.

In 1790, Edinburgh only,—11,792 oxen; 4,500 calves, 37,390 sheep, and 49,200 lambs.

N. B. The number of hogs and pigs cannot be ascertained.

In 1778,—There were 8,400 barrels of oysters exported from the city's fishing grounds. This trade was increasing so much as to threaten the total destruction of the oyster-beds. The magistrates have therefore prohibited the exportation, and even the fishing of oysters under a certain size.

There are immense quantities of Strawberries sold in the Edinburgh market, during the short period that they continue. They are sold, upon an average, at 6d the Scots pint, equal to four English pints, and without any stem or husk as in other places. It is estimated that 100,000 Scots or 400,000 English

pints,

pints are annually ſold, in favourable ſeaſons, in the city and ſuburbs; value L. 2500.——It is impoſſible to eſtimate the quantity conſumed at the pleaſure gardens and places of entertainment in the neighbourhood of the city.——It is known that an acre of Strawberies has produced above L 50.

It is eſtimated that L. 1000 a year is paid in Edinburgh during the months of June, July, Auguſt, and September, for butter milk, or *ſour* milk, as it is called; it is ſold at one penny the Scotch pint, or 4 Engliſh pints.

In 1763—Edinburgh was chiefly ſupplied with vegetables and garden ſtuff from Muſſelburgh and the neighbourhood, which were called through the ſtreets by women with *creels* or baſkets on their backs: Any ſudden increaſe of people would have raiſed all the markets. A ſmall camp at Muſſelburgh, a few years before had this effect.

In 1783—The markets of Edinburgh were as amply ſupplied with vegetables, and every neceſſary of life, as any in Europe. In 1781, Admiral Parker's fleet, and a Jamaica fleet, conſiſting together of 15 ſail of the line, nine frigates, and about 600 merchantmen, lay near two months in Leith Roads, were fully ſupplied with every kind of proviſions, and the markets were not raiſed one farthing, although there could not be leſs than an addition of 20,000 men for ſeven weeks.

The crews of the Jamaica fleet, who were dreadfully afflicted with ſcurvy, were ſoon reſtored to health by the plentiful ſupplies of ſtrawberries, and freſh vegetables and proviſions, which they received. Some merchants in London, who, either from motives of humanity, or eſteeming it a profitable adventure, had ſent four tranſports with freſh proviſions to the fleet, had them returned without breaking bulk. It is believed that there is ſcarcely a port in Great Britain, London alone excepted, where ſuch a body of people unexpectedly arriving, could

could have been ſo plentifully ſupplied, without increaſing the price of proviſions conſiderably to the inhabitants.

I ſhall now conclude this long letter. The ſubject of which it treats is curious, but from the mutable nature of human ſociety, it muſt be continually varying.

It may however be entertaining and perhaps uſeful, to have marked a train of facts reſpecting our own ſhort period of obſervation; although a few years hence, a contraſt equally aſtoniſhing and intereſting may be afforded. No hiſtory of the time could have given ſuch a detail.——The riſe and fall of nations, and the progreſs of human ſociety, as connected with theſe changes, are ſubjects highly intereſting to every contemplative mind. In my next I ſhall give you ſome obſervations on manners, during the ſame period.——I am,—with much eſteem,

SIR,

Your Moſt Obedient,

Humble Servant,

WILLIAM CREECH.

LETTER

LETTER SECOND.

Aetas parentum, pejor avis, tulit
Nos nequiores, mox daturos
Progeniem vitiosiorem.

Quid tristes querimoniæ,
Si non supplicio culpa reciditur?
Quid leges sine moribus
Vanæ proficiunt? HOR.

SIR,

I SHALL now transmit to you a few facts respecting Edinburgh, during the periods mentioned in my former letter, which have a more immediate connection with MANNERS.

A great city in modern Europe has been described to be "A huge, dissipated, gluttonous, collected mass of folly and "wickedness." Perhaps this description is applicable, more or less, to every city, as wealth and luxury increase.—For it seems to be a fact established by the history of mankind, that, as opulence increases, virtue subsides. Yet, one should not imagine, a *priori*, that this would always be the case.——But it strongly confirms the judicious observation of Horace.

Est modus in rebus; sunt certi denique fines,
Quos ultra, citraque nequit consistere rectum.

All nations are at first poor, and their manners simple. As they advance to industry and commerce, to a certain degree; they become improved, and enlightened; but opulence introduces indolence, sensuality, vice, and corruption, and they then hasten to decay. In all matters of public or private life the proper *modus in rebus*, is the distinguishing test of goodsense.

The

The proſperity and happineſs of every individual muſt, in general, depend on his virtue, as muſt that of the nation, which is compoſed of theſe individuals. A corrupted empire muſt therefore tend faſt to ruin, witneſs the example of France, where all religion had long been a farce, and morals of conſequence depraved.

Hence ariſes the neceſſity of watching over the manners, as well as the morals of the people, and particularly of the higher ranks, whoſe example is often pernicious.

But let us ſee, in a ſociety comparatively ſmall to many others, the effect of the increaſe of wealth upon manners, whether as tending to improvement, or otherwiſe. Many changes, however, may be totally unconnected with this cauſe.

In 1763—People of faſhion dined at two o'clock, or a little after it;—buſineſs was attended to in the afternoon. It was a common practice to lock the ſhops at one o'clock, and to open them after dinner at two.

In 1783—People of faſhion, and of the middle rank, dined at four or five o'clock: No buſineſs was done in the afternoon, dinner of itſelf having become a very ſerious buſineſs.

In 1763—Wine was ſeldom ſeen, or, in a ſmall quantity, at the tables of the middle rank of people.

In 1791—Every tradeſman in decent circumſtances preſents wine after dinner; and many in plenty and variety *.

In

NOTE.

* In 1708—The year of the Union, 288,336 barrels of two-penny ale paid duty.

In 1720—520,478½ barrels paid duty.

In 1784—97,577½ barrels paid duty.

This is a ſtriking proof of the decreaſe of malt liquor, and of the conſequent increaſe of the uſe of wine, and ſpirituous liquors.

Compare this with the note page 594.

In 1763—It was the fashion for gentlemen to attend the drawing-rooms of the ladies in the afternoons, to drink tea, and to mix in the society and conversation of the women.

In 1783—The drawing-rooms were totally deserted; invitations to tea in the afternoon were given up; and the only opportunity gentlemen had of being in ladies company, was when they happened to *mess* together at dinner or supper; and even then, an impatience was sometimes shewn, till the ladies retired. Card parties, after a long dinner;—and also after a late supper were frequent.

In 1763—It was fashionable to go to church, and people were interested about religion. Sunday was strictly observed by all ranks as a day of devotion; and it was disgraceful to be seen on the streets during the time of public worship. Families attended church, with their children and servants; and family worship was frequent. The collections at the church doors, for the poor, amounted yearly to L. 1500, and upwards.

In 1783—Attendance on church was greatly neglected, and particularly by the men; Sunday was by many made a day of relaxation; and young people were allowed to stroll about at all hours. Families thought it ungenteel to take their domestics to church with them: The streets were far from being void of people in the time of public worship; and, in the evenings were frequently loose and riotous; particularly owing to bands of apprentice boys, and young lads. Family worship was almost disused. The collections at the church doors for the poor had fallen to L. 1060.

In 1791—The collections at the church doors had risen to L. 1200 *.

NOTE.

* It may be mentioned here, as a curious fact, that, for more than half of this

N. B. The collections above-mentioned respect the established churches of the city only.—There are many chapels and meetings of different persuasions not included.

In no respect were the manners of 1763 and 1783 more remarkable than in the decency, dignity, and delicacy, of the one period, compared with the loosenes, dissipation, and licentiousnes of the other. Many people ceased to blush at what would formerly have been reckoned a crime.

In 1763—Masters took charge of their apprentices, and kept them under their eye in their own houses.

In 1783—Few masters would receive apprentices to stay in their houses, and yet from them an important part of succeeding society is to be formed. If they attended their hours of business, masters took no farther charge. The rest of their time might be passed (as too frequently happens) in vice and debauchery; hence they become idle, insolent, and dishonest. In 1791, the practice had become still more prevalent. Reformation of manners must begin in families to be general or effectual.

In 1791—The wages to Journeymen in every profession were

NOTE continued.

this century, one of the smallest churches in Edinburgh * has collected more money for the poor, at the time of dispensing the sacrament, than eight other churches did upon the same occasion in 1783.

With the best intention, a Sunday evening's sermon, (by the ministers of Edinburgh in rotation) was instituted for the instruction of servants, who might have been detained from public worship during the day; but, this it is said has been perverted by many to bad purposes, and made an excuse for idleness and vice.

There is another evening sermon, for the common people, supported by private subscriptions, which it is said has been attended with beneficial effects, owing to the care and attention of the managers.

There are two other Sunday evening lectures,—one in the Chapel of Ease.—and one in the Gaelic Chapel;—in this last the service is in the Erse language for Highlanders.

* The Tolbooth Church.

were greatly raiſed ſince 1763, and diſturbances frequently happened for a ſtill further increaſe. Yet, many of them riot on Sunday, are idle all Monday, and can afford to do this on five days labour.

In 1763—The clergy viſited, catechiſed, and inſtructed the families within their reſpective pariſhes, in the principles of morality, Chriſtianity, and the relative duties of life.

In 1783—Viſiting and catechiſing were diſuſed (except by a very few), and ſince continue to be ſo: Nor, perhaps, would the clergy now be received with welcome on ſuch an occaſion. If people do not chooſe to go to church, they may remain as ignorant as Hottentots, and the Ten Commandments be as little known as obſolete acts of parliament.—Religion is the only tie that can reſtrain, in any degree, the licentiouſneſs either of the rich, or of the lower ranks; when that is loſt, ferocity of manners, and every breach of morality may be expected.

Hoc fonte derivata, clades
In patriam populumque fluxit.

In 1763—The breach of the ſeventh commandment was puniſhed by fine and church-cenſure. Any inſtance of conjugal infidelity in a woman would have baniſhed her irretrievably from ſociety, and her company would have been rejected even by men who paid any regard to their character.

In 1783—Although the law puniſhing adultery with death was unrepealed, yet church-cenſure was diſuſed, and ſeparations and divorces were become frequent, and have ſince increaſed*. Women, who had been rendered infamous by public divorce, had been, by ſome people of faſhion, again received into ſociety, notwithſtanding the endeavours of our worthy Queen to check ſuch a violation of morality, decency, the

NOTE.

* Records of the Commiſſary Court.

the laws of the country, and the rights of the virtuous. This however, has not been recently attempted.

In 1763—The fines collected by the kirk-treasurer for bastard children amounted to L. 154; and, upon an average of ten succeeding years, they were L. 190.

In 1783—The fines for bastard children amounted to L. 600, and have since greatly increased.

In 1748—The first correction house for disorderly FEMALES was built, and it cost L. 198 : 0 : 4½.

N. B. This is the only one Edinburgh yet has.

In 1791—Manners had been for some years so loose, and crimes so frequent, that the foundation of a large new house of Correction, or Bridewell, was laid on the 30th of November, which, on the lowest calculation, will cost L. 12,000; and this plan is on a reduced scale of what was at first thought absolutely necessary.

In 1763—That is from June 1763 to June 1764, the expence of the Correction house amounted to L. 27 : 16 : 1½.

In 1791, and some years previous to it—The expence of the Correction house had risen to near L. 300,—ten times what it had been in the former period; and there is not room for containing the half of those that ought to be confined to hard labour.

In 1763—There were five or six brothels, or houses of bad fame, and a very few of the lowest and most ignorant order of females sculked about the streets at night. A person might have gone from the Castle to Holyrood-house, (the then length of the city), at any hour in the night, without being accosted by a single *street-walker*. Street robbery, and pocket picking were unknown.

In 1783—The number of brothels had increased twenty fold, and the *women of the town* more than a hundred fold. Every quarter of the city and suburbs was infested with multitudes

titudes of females abandoned to vice, and a great many at a very early period of life, before paſſion could miſlead, or reaſon teach them right from wrong. Street-robbers, pick-pockets, and thieves, had much increaſed *.

In 1763—Houſe-breaking and robbery were extremely rare. Many people thought it unneceſſary to lock their doors at night.

In 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, and 1787—Houſe-breaking, theft, and robbery, were aſtoniſhingly frequent; and many of theſe crimes were committed by boys, whoſe age prevented them from being objects of capital puniſhment. The culprits were uniformly apprehended in houſes of bad fame, in which they were protected and encouraged in their depredations on the public. During the winter, 1787, many daring robberies and ſhop-breakings were committed, by means before unthought of; but the gang were diſcovered, by one of them becoming evidence againſt the reſt, and the others ſuffered capital puniſhment †.

In no reſpect was the ſobriety, and decorum of the lower ranks in 1763 more remarkable, than by contraſting them with the riot and licentiouſneſs of 1783, particularly on Sundays and holidays. The King's birth-day and the laſt night of the

NOTES.

* A late calculator eſtimates 40,000 proſtitutes in London.——That is 40,000 wretched human beings in one city, not only loſt to themſelves and to ſociety, but the cauſe of extending deſtruction to others. Is it not worthy of enquiry, how this aſtoniſhing change of manners ſhould have ariſen, and the probable conſequences of its increaſe to the ſtate? Vice ſoon ſpreads its influence from individuals to families—from families to cities—from cities to the empire,—and an empire corrupted is an empire loſt.

In high life, the change of manners is equally aſtoniſhing, and alarming to the ſtate,—witneſs the almoſt daily trials for *crim. con.*

It is believed that one great ſource of the evil pointed out will be found in the licentiouſneſs of the preſs, in the preſent day; and another in the neglect of religious education.—A tax on novels would be a ſalutary meaſure in government.

† See Brodie's Trial.

the year were, in 1783, devoted to drunkenness, folly, and riot, which in 1763 were attended with peace, and harmony*.

In 1763, and many years preceding and following—The execution of criminals was rare: Three annually were reckoned the average for the whole kingdom of Scotland. There were three succeeding years, (1774, 1775, 1776), in which there was not an execution in Edinurgh.

In 1783—There were six criminals under sentence of death in Edinburgh jail, in one week; and, upon the Autumn Circuit, no less than thirty-seven capital indictments were issued.

During the winter 1791—92,—there was not a robbery, house-breaking, shop breaking, nor a theft publicly known, to the amount of forty shillings, within the city of Edinburgh; ——Not a person accused of a capital crime; and, in the jail, only 20 for petty offences, and 19 confined for small debts †.

In 1789—A society was instituted for promoting religious knowledge among the poor, or the ignorant and indigent members of the community. No society is more likely to be of benefit. They print books of moral and religious instruction, which are diffused among the lower ranks. This was a favourite scheme of the late Lord Kames, but it was never carried into execution in his time. A worthy lady left, in 1792, seven hundred pounds to promote the object of this institution.

In 1763—There was no such diversion as public cock-fighting in Edinburgh.

In 1783—There were many public cock-fighting matches, or

NOTES.

* From 1788 to 1792, this folly had much abated, by the attention of the Magistrates to strict police.

† To contrast this with London, there were, April 20th, 1792, in Newgate, 406 prisoners, of whom 185 were debtors, 15 under sentence of death, 19 respited during his Majesty's pleasure, 80 transports, 80 under orders of imprisonment for certain determinate periods, and 27 for trial.——This is the account of one prison only in London.

or *mains*, as they are technically termed;—and a regular cock-pit was built for the accommodation of this ſchool of gambling and cruelty, where every diſtinction of rank and character is levelled.

In 1790—The cock-pit continued to be frequented.

Before 1790—There never was ſuch a thing known as profeſſed bruiſers. But in the courſe of that year a perſon from England opened a public ſchool for teaching boxing, or pugiliſm, as it is termed; and he had ſeveral public exhibitions at his ſchool, but few pupils. This *branch of education* does not correſpond with the mild genius of Chriſtianity, which we profeſs; and it can be looked on only with pity, even when practiſed among ſavages and barbarians.

In 1792—This folly, which had been borrowed from the ſouth, was totally given up.

In 1763—A young man was termed a *fine fellow*, who, to a well-informed and an accompliſhed mind, added elegance of manners, and a conduct guided by principle; one who would not have injured the rights of the meaneſt individual; who contracted no debts that he could not pay; and thought every breach of morality unbecoming the character of a gentleman; —who ſtudied to be uſeful to ſociety, ſo far as his opportunity or abilities enabled him.

In 1783—The term *fine fellow* was applied to one who could drink three bottles; who diſcharged all debts of *honour*, (or game debts and tavern bills), and evaded payment of every other; who ſwore immoderately, and before ladies, and talked of his *word of honour*; who ridiculed religion and morality as folly and hypocriſy, (but without argument); who was very jolly at the table of his friend, and would loſe no opportunity of ſeducing his wife, or of debauching his daughter if ſhe was handſome; but, on the mention of ſuch a thing being attempted to his own connections, would have cut the throat, or blown out the brains of his deareſt companion, offering

fering ſuch an inſult;—who was forward in all the faſhionable follies of the time; who diſregarded the intereſts of ſociety, or the good of mankind, if they interfered with his own vicious ſelfiſh purſuits and pleaſures.

In 1790—Among the lower orders ſwearing had increaſed greatly.—And on trials in the courts of law, perjury had alſo increaſed.

In 1791—Immoderate drinking, or puſhing the bottle, as it is called, was rather out of faſhion among genteel people.—Every one was allowed to do as he pleaſed, in filling or drinking his glaſs. The means of hoſpitality and the frequency of ſhewing it had increaſed;—and exceſs on ſuch occaſions had decreaſed.

In 1763—In the beſt families in town, the education of daughters was fitted, not only to embelliſh and improve their minds; but to accompliſh them in the uſeful and neceſſary arts of domeſtic economy. The ſewing ſchool, the paſtry-ſchool, were then eſſential branches of female education; nor was a young lady of the beſt family aſhamed to go to market with her mother.

In 1783—The daughters of many tradeſmen conſumed the mornings at the toilet, or in ſtrolling from ſhop to ſhop, &c. Many of them would have bluſhed to have been ſeen in a market. The cares of the family were devolved upon a houſe-keeper; and the young lady employed thoſe heavy hours when ſhe was diſengaged from public or private amuſements, in improving her mind from the *precious ſtores* of a circulating library;—and all, whether they had taſte for it or not, were taught muſic at a great expence.

In 1791—There is little alteration. Every rank is eager to copy the manners and faſhion of their ſuperiors; and this has in all ages been the caſe. Of what importance, then, is correct and exemplary manners in the higher ranks to the good order of ſociety!

In

In 1763—Young ladies (even by themſelves) might have walked through the ſtreets of the City in perfect ſecurity at any hour. No perſon would have interrupted, or ſpoken to them.

In 1783—The miſtreſſes of boarding ſchools found it neceſſary to advertiſe, that their young ladies were not permitted to go abroad without proper attendants.

In 1791—Boys, from bad example at home, and worſe abroad, had become forward and inſolent. They early frequented taverns, and were ſoon initiated in folly and vice, without any religious principle to reſtrain them. It has been an error of twenty years, to precipitate the education of boys, and make them too ſoon men.

In 1763—The weekly Concert of muſic began at ſix o'clock.

In 1783—The Concert began at ſeven o'clock; but it was not in general ſo much attended as ſuch an elegant entertainment ſhould have been, and which was given at the ſole expence of the ſubſcribers.

In 1791-2, The faſhion changed, and the Concert became the moſt crouded place of amuſement.

The barbarous cuſtom of *ſaving* the ladies, (as it was called), after St. Cecilia's Concert, by gentlemen drinking immoderately to *ſave* a favourite lady, as his toaſt, has been for ſome years given up.—Indeed they got no thanks for their abſurdity.

In 1763—The queſtion reſpecting the morality of ſtage-plays was much agitated. A clergyman, a few years before, had been brought before the General Aſſembly of the Church, and ſuſpended from his office, for having written a tragedy, unqueſtionably one of the moſt chaſte and intereſting in the Engliſh language *. By thoſe who attended the Theatre, even without

NOTE.

* The Tragedy of Douglas, by Mr Home, then a clergyman.

without scruple, Saturday night was thought the most improper in the week for going to the play. Any clergyman, who had been known to have gone to the playhouse, would have incurred church censure.

In 1783—The morality of stage-plays, or their effects on society were not thought of. The most crouded houses were always on Saturday-night. The boxes for the Saturday-night's play were generally taken for the season, so that strangers often on that night could not get a place. The custom of taking a box for the Saturday-night through the season, was much practised by boarding mistresses, so that there could be no choice of the play, but the young ladies could only take what was set before them by the manager. Impudent buffoons took liberties with authors, and with the audience, in their acting, that would not have been suffered formerly.

The galleries never failed to applaud what they formerly would have hissed, as improper in sentiment, or decorum.

In 1763—There was one dancing assembly room; the profits of which went to the support of the Charity-Workhouse. Minuets were danced by each set, previous to the country dances. Strict regularity with respect to dress and decorum, and great dignity of manners were observed.

In 1786—The old assembly room was used for the accommodation of the city-guard. There were three new elegant assembly rooms at Edinburgh, besides one at Leith; but the Charity Workhouse was unprovided for to the extent of its necessities.—Minuets were given up, and country dances only used, which had often a nearer resemblance to a game of romps, than to elegant and graceful dancing. Dress, particularly by the men, was much neglected; and many of them reeled from the tavern, flustered with wine, to an assembly of as elegant and beautiful women as any in Europe.

In 1763—The company at the public assemblies met at five o'clock in the afternoon, and the dancing began at six, and ended

ended at eleven, by public orders of the manager, which were never transgressed.

In 1783—The public assemblies met at eight and nine o'-clock, and the Lady Directress, sometimes, did not make her appearance till ten*. The young Masters and Misses, who would have been mortified not to have seen out the ball, thus returned home at three or four in the morning, and yawned and gaped, and complained of headachs all the next day.

In 1790 and 1791—The public assemblies were little frequented. Private balls were much in fashion, with elegant suppers after them, and the companies seldom parted till three four, or five in the morning.

In 1783—The funds of the Charity Workhouse were insufficient to maintain the poor of the community entitled by law to public charity. The courts of law however, and all who call themselves members of those courts, pay no poor's money, nor lamp or guard money; although the most opulent part of the community; whilst they send at the same time, a very great proportion of managers to dispose of funds, to which they do not contribute; and crowd the house with their poor, to whose support they do not pay. This privilege is pleaded on old acts of parliament, at a period when the courts were ambulatory:—But now that they have been stationary for near two centuries, it is full time it were given up. There is no such privilege existing any where else in Britain. The courts of law in London claim no such exemption; nor would it be allowed if they did. The regulations and customs of Henry VIII. would ill accord with the present state of England.

NOTE.

* A new institution, that of a Master of Ceremonies for the City Assemblies took place in 1787.

Many of the facts, with which I have now furnished you, are curious.

They point out the gradual progress of commerce and luxury, and the corresponding effect upon manners; and shew by what imperceptible degrees society may advance to refinement, and in some points to corruption, whilst matters of real utility may be neglected.

Observations similar to the preceding may perhaps be made in every capital town or city in Great Britain; and, if the example I have now given is followed, much useful information may be gained respecting trade, manners, and police. This is the more to be wished for, as the prosperity and happiness of every nation must depend upon its virtue, and on the wisdom aud due execution of its laws.

The information I have given is only an outline. It would have required a volume to have gone minutely into particulars.

Your zeal and public spirit have stimulated a research which never was equalled in any country, and it may prove highly beneficial to mankind in general. Every good citizen of the state is bound to wish well to the undertaking, and, according to his opportunities, to promote its success. My best exertions, on every occasion of such a nature, you may always depend on.—I remain,—with much esteem,

SIR,

Your most obedient,

Edinburgh, } Humble servant,
Decr. 1792. }

WILLIAM CREECH.

LETTER

LETTER THIRD.

SIR,

I SHALL now, according to my promise, give you an account of the physical phenomena, that I have noted for some years. The knowledge of facts is the only foundation of true philosophy, and without this knowledge, theories and systems are vague and unsatisfactory.

It is obvious that this globe which we inhabit has undergone great and astonishing changes. It is certain that most of the land we now occupy has once been covered by the sea, for many of the highest mountains are replete with marine productions.

That many of the rocks and mountains which we see, must have been ocasioned by subterraneous fire, no person can doubt. For instance, the basaltic columns of the Giants causeway, the island of Staffa, the rocks at the harbour of Dunbar, the hills of Arthur's Seat and Craiglockhart *, and many others, too tedious to mention. These are only named as being more immediately under observation.

Nothing can account for the regular form which the parts of these rocks have taken, but their being produced by fire, and this is supported by experiment. It has lately been found that when similar substances are brought into fusion, and allowed to cool gradually, they assume the same regular shape as these columns of rock. Some time ago, a furnace of flint glass having

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NOTE.

* These hills are in the immediate vicinity of Edinburgh.

having been by accident allowed to cool, the matter was found to have taken the form of basaltic columns.

We have but very little knowledge of the great processes of nature, or the tremendous changes that have taken place in this globe, owing to the remote antiquity of the events, and the short period and imperfection of our records.

Volcanos have been observed as far to the North and South Poles as land has been discovered; and through all the interveening latitudes. It would hence appear, that there is a great body of active fire within the bowels of the earth; and we know the effects of it often appear at immense distances, and that it acts in a manner which cannot, or has not yet been accounted for. Volcanos, we also know, have disappeared in one place, and have burst out in another; and that every part of the globe is subject to such convulsions of nature.

The northern part of this island of Britain has not within the record of history been subject to any remarkable physical change, although it is evident that such changes have happened in it. The following recent facts, however, may not perhaps be thought unworthy of remark; and a few facts are of more value than a thousand hypotheses.

In 1782, at the time of the dreadful earthquakes in Calabria, the Mercury in the barometer in Scotland sunk within the tenth of an inch of the bottom of the scale; the waters in many of the lochs or lakes in the Highlands were much agitated.

In 1783—There was an immense volcanic eruption in the island of Iceland *, which began on the tenth of June, and continued till the middle of August. A new island was thrown up in the neighbouring sea, and again disappeared.

Several

NOTE.

* Iceland lies between the 63d and 67th degree of north latitude.

Several months previous to this eruption, a heavy dark bluish sulphureous fog had been observed to rest over the island when not dissipated by the wind; this fog, at times, was spread all over Europe. The year before this eruption, and a few months before the earthquakes in Calabria, a contagious disease called the *Influenza* spread through Europe.

This volcanic eruption in Iceland is perhaps the most remarkable yet recorded in history. One stream of burning lava extended 40 miles in length, and 16 in breadth, and was in some places between 4 and 500 feet deep *!

Upon the 18th of August 1783—A remarkable meteor or ball of fire was seen to pass from north to south, about half past eight in the evening. This meteor was seen all over Britain, and in many places upon the continent of Europe. This phenomenon happened much about the time of the termination of the volcanic eruption in Iceland, and it is remarkable, that this meteor was first seen to the north-west of the Shetland and Orkney islands, in the quarter of Iceland.

Upon the 12th of September 1784—A very extraordinary phenomena was observed at Loch Tay. The air was perfectly calm, not a breath of wind stirring. About nine o'clock in the morning, the water at the east end of the loch ebbed about 300 feet, and left the channel dry. It gradually accumulated and rolled on about 300 feet farther to the westward, when it met a similar wave rolling in a contrary direction. When these waves met, they rose to a perpendicular height of five or six feet, producing a white foam upon the top. The water then took a lateral direction southward, rushing to the shore, and rising upon it four feet beyond the highest water mark.

NOTE.

* The account of this eruption is, since the above was written, recorded in the Philosophical Transactions of Edinburgh.

mark. It then returned, and continued to ebb and flow every seven minutes for two hours, the waves gradually diminishing every time they reached the shore, until the whole was quiescent. During the whole of that week, at a latter hour in the morning, there was the same appearance, but not with such violence.

Upon the 11th of March 1785—The Tiviot, a large river in the south of Scotland, suddenly disappeared, and left the channel dry for two hours, and then flowed with its usual fulness *.

Upon the 16th of June 1786—A smart shock of an earthquake was felt at Whitehaven in Cumberland, which extended to the Isle of Man and Dublin, and was also felt in the south-west parts of Scotland.

Upon the 11th of August 1786—A very alarming shock of an earthquake was felt about two o'clock in the morning, in the north of England, viz. Northumberland, Cumberland, and in Scotland, across the island; and as far north as Argylshire; and in all these places at the same instant of time. This shock extended above 150 miles from south to north, and 100 miles from east to west.

What an immense power must it have been to have produced such an effect!

Upon the 26th of January 1787—A smart shock of an earthquake was felt in the parishes of Campsie and Strathblane, ten miles north from Glasgow, about ten o'clock in the morning. A rushing noise was heard to precede the shock from the south-east. The night preceding this earthquake, a piece of ground near Alloa, on which a mill was built, suddenly sunk a foot and a half.

Upon

NOTE.

* According to the newspaper of the day. See Edinb. Even. Courant.

Upon the 26th of January, the river Clyde, above Lanark, became almost dry for two hours, and the mills were stopped; and afterwards the river again flowed as usual.

On the 25th of January 1787—The river Tiviot again became suddenly dry, and continued so for four hours, and then flowed with its usual fulness.

In 1787—The months of January and February were uncommonly mild; the thermometer at Edinburgh being in general 20 degrees higher than usual at that season.

On the 12th of February 1787—The mercury in the barometer at Edinburgh was nearly as low as at the time of the earthquakes in Calabria.

On the 8th of July 1788—The sea at Dunbar suddenly receded eighteen inches.

On the 8th of July 1788—An earthquake was felt in the Isle of Man.

In September 1789—There was a violent earthquake in Iceland*.

On Thursday the 5th of November 1789, between five and and six in the evening, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt at Crieff, at Comrie, and for many miles round that district, which is about fifty five miles from Edinburgh.—At Mr. Robertson's house of Lawers, a rumbling noise, like distant thunder, had been heard at intervals for two months; and at the time of the shock, a noise like the discharge of distant artillery was distinctly heard. Mr. Dundas and Mr. Bruce of Edinburgh were standing before the fire in the drawing-room, and they described the shock, as if a great mallet had suddenly struck the foundation of the house with violence.—At the vil-

NOTE.

* See Letter from Copenhagen, Oct. 6. 1789, published in the newspapers about the end of October.

lage of Cromrie, the inhabitants left their houſes, and ran to the open fields.

On the 11th of November, in the forenoon, in the ſame place, another ſhock was felt, which was more violent than that of the 5th. It was accompanied with a hollow rumbling noiſe. The ice on a piece of water near the houſe of Lawers was ſhivered to atoms *.

Extract of a letter from Florence, Oct. 2. 1789.

" We have received the melancholy intelligence, that, on the 30th of September, at three quarters after eleven o'clock in the morning, a violent ſhock of an earthquake was felt in the town of Borgo San Sepolcro, which laſted two minutes. The cathedral was partly deſtroyed, and ſome churches, with many houſes and palaces, entirely ſo. In a village five miles from Borgo San Sepolcro, the earth opened and ſwallowed up above thirty houſes, with all the inhabitants; and the remainder of that village, conſiſting of above 150 houſes, was totally deſtroyed: The earth there opened in many different places, and a great quantity of cattle have periſhed, beſides above 1000 perſons †.

It is very extraordinary that on the ſame day, viz. the 30th of September, near three o'clock in the afternoon, two or three diſtinct ſhocks of an earthquake were felt at the houſe of Parſons Green, within a mile of Edinburgh. The houſe is ſituated on the north ſide of the hill called Arthur's Seat, which

NOTES.

* See the Edinburgh papers of the above date.

† London Chronicle, Oct. 17. 1789.

which is composed of an immense mass of blue granite.—Several visitors were in the house to dine with the family, and the whole company ran down stairs from the drawing-room, and they met the servants from the kitchen, in the lobby, equally alarmed at what had happened. They described the sensation as if the house had received two or three violent blows in the foundation, so that all the furniture shook.

On Friday the 4th of December 1789, the ship Brothers, Capt. Stewart, arrived at Leith from Archangel, who reported that on the coast of Lapland and Norway he sailed many leagues through immense quantities of dead haddocks floating on the sea. He spoke several English ships, who reported the same fact.—It is certain that haddock, which was the fish in the greatest abundance in the Edinburgh market, has scarcely been seen there these three years *.

On the 10th of November 1792, three repeated smart shocks of an earthquake, accompanied with a hollow rumbling noise like that of distant thunder, was felt at Loch Rannoch in Perthshire.

Extract of a letter from the same neighbourhood.

COMRIE (*Perthshire*), *Nov.* 30. 1972.

" We have, of late, been greatly alarmed with several very severe shocks of an earthquake. They were more sensible and alarming than any felt formerly, and the noise attending them was uncommonly loud and tremulous. It appeared, probably, more so from the stillness of the atmosphere, and the reverberation of the surrounding mountains. The houses were greatly shaken, and the furniture tossed from its place. The weather

NOTE.

* In February 1790, three haddocks were brought to market, which from their scarcity sold for 7s. 6d.

weather had been uncommonly variable, and changed from high gusts of wind to a deep calm, a few days before the severest shocks of the earthquake. The air was moist and hazy, and the clouds seemed charged with electricity. It is not improbable, that these earthquakes arise from large caverns below this place, into which the exterior waters penetrate, and are converted into vapour, or steam, capable of the highest degree of expansion, and must press forcibly upon every thing which opposes their dilatation. By this theory, the famous *Delomieu* accounted for the earthquakes of Calabria in 1783, which was received, by the learned world, as more satisfactory than any proposed by Sir William Hamilton, and other philosophers. Whatever be the cause, the effect is certain; and it must be no small force that can shake a country to the extent of between twenty and thirty miles."

I do not mean at present to draw any hypothesis or theory from what I have stated above, but merely to bring facts into one general view, and to induce others to make observations of the same kind. I am, with much esteem,

SIR,

Your most obedient,

Edinburgh,
Decr. 1792.

Humble Servant,

WILLIAM CREECH.

In p. 600. l. 9. for 1782, *r.* 1792

APPENDIX.—N°. II.

PARISH OF RICCARTON,

PAGE 117.

IN the courſe of his viſitation this ſummer (1792), the incumbent took an accurate ſurvey of this pariſh; from which it appears that there are in it in all, ſouls 1300

Males	638
Females	662
In the country	928
In the village	372
Below 10 years of age	343
Betwixt 10 and 20	283
Betwixt 20 and 40	396
Betwixt 40 and 60	182
Betwixt 60 and 70	57
Betwixt 70 and 80	34
Above 80	5

The pariſh contains exactly 4736 acres, all arable excepting 138 acres, of which by far the greateſt part is moſs.——The real rent is about L. 4327 ſterling *per annum*. There are in the pariſh 207 horſes, 848 black cattle, and only 69 ſheep. There are 60 ploughs, and 131 carts.

END OF THE SIXTH VOLUME